

THE
Present STATE
OF
ENGLAND

In Relation to

POPERY

Manifesting the Absolute Impossibility of Introducing
POPERY and ARBITRARY
POWER into this Kingdom.

Being a Full *Confutation* of all Fears and Apprehensions
of the Imagined Dangers from thence ;
and particularly of a Certain
Pamphlet, Entituled,

The Character of a Popish Successor.

By E. SETTLE.

L O N D O N,

Printed by J. Gain, for William Cademan, at the Popes-Head in the
Lower Walk of the New-Exchange, in the Strand ;
Anno; MDCLXXXIV.

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ENGLAND



Subscription sent of 1902
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(Imms)

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LONDON

Printed by A. Smith, for W. Clarke, at the New-Exchange, in the Strand;
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TO THE Loyal GENTRY OF

KENT.

Gentlemen,



RITERS set out in Print, as Adventurers to Sea: The happy Discovery of some extraordinary Fortunate Coast the first Voyage, is an Invitation to attempt a Plantation there the next. Such was the Temptation of a New-found GOLDEN WORLD: whilst the Sails of a CORTÉZ, were only swell'd by the Prosperity of a COLUMBUS. The same Success, and the same Attraction is my Loadstar, whilst the Honour of Dedicating my First Piece, my *Narrative*, to the Worthy

Sir THOMAS TAYLOR, has brought me, like a Bolder, *Inmate* amongst you, resolved to plant my self, and my whole Labours in no other Soil.

I confess indeed my own infinite Unworthiness makes my Intrusion wholly inexcusable. However that *Innate* Goodness that ever attends the LOYAL and the BRAVE, is no little Encouragement; when I consider, that whatever my past Faults have been, yet Clemency and Forgiveness, as being the brightest Emanations of GLORY from that inexhaustible Fountain of Mercy, the Best of KINGS, are ever the natural Borrow'd Beams to that Loyalty that shines from him. A more particular Portion of which enlightning Brightness, is so justly your own, that a never shaken Loyalty, and an unsullied Fidelity are the very Claim even of your BIRTHRIGHTS. For whatever weaker and less fortified Hearts the Growth and Progress of Faction may have subdued; YOU challenge that Native British Honour, so much of the *Harvee*, derived down from Ages to you; that the Vindication of MONARCHY and the opposing and repelling all Republick Arts and Machinations against the ROYAL CAUSE, with the same Souls and Resolution that your Renowned Ancestors withstood the Norman Arms, is but asserting your own Hereditary Glory of KENT, that is, of being INVINCIBLE.

The Assurance of which Generous Virtues born and bred with you, that illustrious Genius that runs in your very Veins, gives me hopes, not only of obtaining your Pardon for this Presumption, but likewise your Patronage and Protection from the Slanders of my Enemies, who endeavour to intercept all Favourable Thoughts of me, and my Writings, by alleadging that I have written so virulently and maliciously, that I ought never to be trusted for a Convert.

The first part of their Accusation, my own guilty part, 'tis true, I own, and submit to all the Load that Justice, Reproach and Shame can lay upon me. But alas I am the only Libeller never to be Converted, or never to be believed so; when some of my own Faulty Predecessours, the present Honour both of the PRESS and PUBLIC, under as blackning Circumstances, have sometimes in their Lives play'd the very Parnassians upon a Cromwel. And though indeed, a Submission to the Government of a Rebel might come under Self-Preservation, yet publick Encomiums upon him are those Super-errogating Works of Affection and Applause both to the Traitor and the Regicide, which no little Penitence could wash off. Yet whilst not only the present Generous Arms of a Pardoning COURT, and the kindest Embraces of an Endearing CHURCH are those Royal Credentials of THEIR Plenary Conversion: with what Eyes must the World look on Me, either to find that unchangeable Impenitency in My Temper, or that Hardness of Belief in their Own.

'Tis

The Epistle Dedicatory.

'Tis probable, I confess that this following Discourse may give Disfast to some of our late Members of *Parliament*, when written to convince the World that the *Church of England*, and the *Protestant Strength* of this Kingdom stand upon a *ROCK* *Immoveable*; whereas on the contrary, the *False Prognosticks* of our late *State-Wizards* have Seated them on *Bogs* and *Quicksands*, just tumbling and sinking.

However, for my Justification I have this to say: We live in a Kingdom where, Thanks to GOD, and our yet safe *MONARCHICAL* Constitution, we are in that *Temperate Region*, that (till now and then of late in the too sultry *DOG-DAYS* of *Black-rod*, and *Messenger Time*) we are only Govern'd by *LAW*. And when I find no Statute, nor one Letter of that *LAW* to make my Denyal of our Popish Dangers *Criminal*, I think I may safely with *Honesty* and *Justice* in the open Face of Day aver, that we are no more bound to believe any such Popish Dangers near us because this *TRUE PROTESTANT Sham-Patriot*, or that *PLOT-COMMITTEE* has pronounced them *Oratorious*; than we ought to stand up for the *ALCORAN*, because this *Mufti* and that *Mussulman* will dye for't. *POPE-RT* in *England* being that *Goblin* that is not seen by *ALL Eyes*: and it being highly *unreasonable*, because three Parts of the Kingdom have been troubled with the *JAUNDICES* and seen all things *yellow*, that therefore every Man with *Sound HEARTH* and *BRAINS* should do so too.

For my part, I am of Opinion, that no Man with three Grains in his Skull is any more obliged to believe *OTES* his Discovery, because so Voted, the *PRESERVATION* of the Kingdom, than the *Lending the King Money*, as Voted likewise, had been the *BETRAYING* of it. Nor can I possibly fancy a *Bill of UNION*, because so adjudged (that is, the Incorporating of all sorts of *SCHISMES* down from the *Presbyter* to the *Muggletonian* into the Body of the *CHURCH*, were the way to preserve Us from *POPERY*, any more than the letting of *Pickpockets*, *Shoplifters*, and *Ruffians* INTO the House, were the keeping of *FELONS* and *BURG-LARERS* OUT of it.

I confess I pay as great a Respect to every Resolve in Parliament that carries *REASON*, *HONOUR*, and *LOYALTY* along with it, as every good Subject ought to pay. But I profess, if I should find, Resolved by this *House*, that his Majesty's Life has been twice in *Imminent Danger* from a certain *Screw'd Gun*, most terribly charged, once with *all Bullets* and *no Power*, and a second time with *all Power* and *no Bullets*; and therefore be it likewise Resolved, as the only Expedient for the *SAFETY* of his Majesty's Person and the *Protestant Religion* from the Danger of such bloody *Popish Assassins*, that an *ADDRESS* be made to his Majesty, that all the *MEN-WORTHY* *Papists* in *Maquerade* be removed from all Offices of Trust, and the *True Protestant WORTHY-MEN* be placed in their Room; and that a *Bill* be likewise brought in for the Lodging the *Militia* for *forty two days* in *Conjunct Hands* for the King and Kingdom's *DEFENCE*. Now I say, if I should read this a thousand times over with an *Imprimatur* *W. I. WILLIAMS* in Letters of Gold, confirmed too by the *Infallibility* even of *Nemine Contradicente* it self, hang me if I should find out either that *Wonderous Danger* to his Majesty in the first Resolve, or that *secure Preservation* of him in the Last.

If ten thousand Resolves of Parliament should declare *Coleman's Papers* a *Confirmation* of *OTES* and *BEDLOES* *Popish Plot* for the Murder of the King, or raising *Armies* for cutting the *PROTESTANT Throats*. I should be sorry to think that any thing within the *Pale of Rationality* should believe it, when there is not one *Syllable* throughout those Papers that bear the least Tendency that way; and the whole Plot of that false *Intriguer* was more a Design of *French-Jesuits MONEY-Catching*, than *French Religion*, or *French Government Building*.

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And if *Bedloe* himself should rise from the Grave, and in a Conference betwixt *Prance* and him, should swear as boldly by *STYX* and *ACHERON*, as formerly they had done by the four *EVANGELISTS*, that *Sir Edmund-Bury Godfrey* was murder'd with a Pillow and Long Cravate at FIVE in the Afternoon in the Upper Court of *Somerset-House*, by *Walsh*, *Lephair*, the Lord *Bellasis's* two Gentlemen, and *Mr. Atkins*, *Mr. Pepy's* Clerk : and murdered likewise the same Evening at NINE at night, with a twisted Handkerchief, at the Stables in *Somerset-House* Outward Court, by the Hands of *Green*, *Gerald*, *Hill*, *Berry*, and *Prance* : and if a hundred Successive *PARLIAMENTS* upon the Receipt of such a Testimony, should Resolve that a Disbelief of either of the two Relations, and a Dispute of the VERACITY of the two Witnesses, were a Downright Countenancing of *POPERT* and a Weakening the *PROTESTANT INTEREST*, with all the rest of the dreadful *Senate-House Anathemas* at the Tayl on't : Maugre all those Parliamentary Fulminations, I should be loth to see three honest Men in three thousand, either convinced by the Oaths of the One, or terrified out of their Senses by the Menaces of the other.

And when I read upon RECORD our Swearing Master *OTES* one day upon Oath affirming, that he had no other Person to accuse of the *Popish Conspiracy* than those he had already Impeach't; and yet the next day, bringing the very Queen her self into the PLOT against his Majesties Life : after so damnable a Perjury from so impudent a Reprobate Varlet, Lord have Mercy upon the STRONG FAITH of *Three Kingdoms*, that could hang a Rat upon an Affidavit from such Lips. And Oh ! the Foundation of the whole *Popish Plot*, that has no other Credentials to support it, than bare OATHS from such a Wretch ; without one concurring Circumstance, one scrap of Treasonable Papers, Consults, Commissions, &c. of so many hundred of them all Sworn to, and all trusted in the Discoverers Hands ; or the least Breath of a Confession from any one dying Malefactor. Nay, and more than all this, a Discovery too, that with such palpable Contradictions, Incongruities, and Impossibilities throughout it, is such a meer ROPE OF SAND, that not all the Craft of MAN or DEVIL can ever make HANG TOGETHER.

Take all this Discovery (a Prodigy which nothing but this one only Greater Prodigy the CREDITING of it can exceed) with some few more of its Dependencies along with it, such as that precious HOUSE OF COMMONS Vote, of revenging the King's Untimely Death upon the *Papists* ; with the subsequent Use of that Vote, viz. when the most Zealous TRUE PROTESTANT Members, the fiercest Promoters of that very Vote, were actually *Themselves* engaged in his MURDER, and resolved to turn their own SHAM into ORACLE, by doing the Feat with their own Fanatical Hands, and then Lodging the BASTARD at the *Popish Doors* : Take the whole PLOT I say, and this Fabrick built upon it together, and 'tis a Million to a Mite but the Foundation will at last appear as HELLISH as the Superstructure : and when the *Popish Plot*, thus made a Property for the Fanatical Conspirators, shall be duly and thoroughly examined ; he that will but give himself the trouble but of Looking or Thinking, will have but too much Reason to suspect the Tool as Infernal as the Hands that used it.

And to give our great Witness even the fairest Interpretation of his Discovery ; I know no unlikelihood why the Regicide and Massacres of *Whitebread*, *Fennick*, *Ireland*, and the rest of them should not be of the the same piece with *Mr. Elliott's* *MACHU-METANISME* and *CIRCUMCISION*. For perish me, if I can find the least Glimpse of Reason why he that could be so cursed a Limb of *Lucifer* in his Evidence at *Dr. Commons*, should have so much Immaculate Divinity in his Testimony at the *Old Bayley*, whilst the same Breath that smelt so rank of Sulphur one day, should be so Heavenly Perfumed another.

The Epistle Dedicatory.

'Tis true, there's a sort of People will call this Discourse an **ARRAIGNING** the *Justice of the Nation*; when indeed they are wholly mistaken in the Matter. For the *Justice of the Nation* is safe while it acts by **LAW**: and therefore while the *Witnesses SWARE* and the *Jurors BELIEVED*, not *Pickering* himself fell otherwise than by the Sentence of *Justice*.

'Tis true indeed as to the *English Latitude* of **BELIEVING**, in some Cases, *Extraordinary* Examples may be given. 'Twas but enough to cry *Halloa! Popery!* and the whole Populace of the Kingdom, as Natural **BLOOD-HOUNDS** at that Game, would certainly take the *False Scent* so readily, that there needed no more than *Look there she goes*; and the Seven-headed, Ten-horned *Babylonish Beast*, with all her *Bloody-Pilgrims*, *Black-Bills*, *Screw'd-Guns*, *Teuxbury Mustard-Balls*, &c. were all as **DISTINCTLY VISIBLE** as the *French Army* Land-ed at the *Isle of Purbeck* was to two or three whole Counties round it. And if the *Sense, Reason, and Intellects* of whole Countries together could be so grossly Imposed upon as in that *Purbeck IMPOSTURE*; I know neither Law nor Gospel why it should be a Sin to averr a poor *Jury* of twelve may possibly once in their *Lives* be mistaken. Nay, or that the *Opticks Within* a House of **COMMONS** may as possibly be no more *Accurate* than those *Without* it, it being not the first time that **REPRESENTATIVES** have been as *Blar-Eyed* as their **ELECTORS**.

And considering the first *Fanatick CONSPIRACY* of ever infamous Memory, made its *Approaches* and *Attacques*, and indeed gain'd its whole *Triumph* by a previous **SHAM Popish One**, as the only necessary Pipe to set the Fools of three Kingdoms a dancing after it; I know no Reason why our later **CONSPIRATORS** under the same Necessity, should be less *Industrious* than their Predecessours; and therefore think it not at all an Impossibility that the *Headpiece* and *Interest* of a *Shaftsbury* should be able to pick up upon occasion, a Brace of **VAGABONDS** from the *Jays* and *Alms-Baskets* of three Kingdoms to swear a few **PRIESTS** into a *Halter*; when the same *Phanatick Faction* the last Age had a whole Set of **MERCINART ROGUES** at their *High COURT OF JUSTICE* ready for *True Protestant Evidences* against the very *Life of MAJESTY* it self.

But to leave the **POPISH PLOT** to the *Hell* that engendred it, the *Villains* that *Midwiv'd* it, the *Rebels* that *Nurs'd* it, and above all, the **TAP** that *Suckled* it: that no man may think I design any Reflection upon the Constitution of **PARLIAMENTS**, (for though *Corruptio optimi est pessima*, and therefore nothing more detestable than *Depravity* and *Faction* in that Great **COUNCIL** of the **KING** and **KINGDOM**) to show that no Man can have a higher **VENERATION** of the Nation's **REPRESENTATIVES** when **TRULY Venerable**, I hope to see the Day, when those Great *State pilors* shall make **JUSTICE** and **LOQTALTY** the only Stars they *Steer* by, while **TRUTH**, the *Child of TIME* shall have the Honour of Their Hands to bring it into the World; and when all our late *Popish Trash*, that long unwinnow-ed *Chaff*, shall be sifted away; and the *Security* of our Religion, and the Peace of Men's *Minds* shall be cleared from all such *Dross* and *Rubbish*: the Disquisition of Truth, being that indispensable Duty of the Nation in Parliament Assembled, that without a *Cordial* and *Impartial* Inspection and Suppression of all *Factions* **FRALDS**, and all our **FORGED** Dangers; all the National **UNGROUND-ED JEALOUSIES**, and the Violent and Fatal Effects of them, lye at their **OWN Door**.

And therefore it ought to be the Prayers of all good Men for such a next Meeting of that *Illustrious* **ASSEMBLY**, who under a true Sense of their **DUTY**, both as *Patriots*, *Subjects*, and *Englishmen*, shall so effectually provide for the Kingdom's Safety

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Safety as to hang out their *Best Lights* and *Fairest Sea-Marks* to warn a poor deluded People to avoid that old Treacherous Rock, the *Falle Fear* of *POPERY* and *SLAVERY*, on which so lately we so fatally split before. And pursuant to this Work, I hope to see them so Zealous for *Truth*, and the Unvizarding of all Impositions, that they shall not only unravel the *Neigromancy* of our *SHAFTSBURIAN-PROTESTANTS*, and plainly discover that only the *Old Republick* Ramp began to *Flyebloom* again, and all our Fears and Dangers from *ROME* and *POPERY* were but the *Corrupted Insects*, the *Popular Maggots* bred in that *Carrion*; but likewise Retrive the fullyed Reputation of a *Derided Kingdom*, by amending the *Headlong ENGLISH Credulity*, and using even some unhappy *RECORDS* *Themselves*, with almost as little *Mercy* as a *NOBLE PEERS SPEECH*, or a *Fitzbarris* his *Libel*, as being indeed the more Unfortunate, though possibly, less wilful *Incendiary* of the Two. And lastly, Shall do that Justice to the Memory even of the Top Evidence *Jes* himself, as to Eternize his *Due* Glory of being *Judas* his *SUCCESSOR*, only with this Difference: *Judas* of the two was the more Innocent Imp of Hell. For he ingenuously took the thirty pieces of Silver as a *barefaced* Traytor, approach't and seized like one; and neither *acted* nor *pretended* to any other than the visible *Villain* he was. But this prodigare *Miscreant* with Guilt of a yet deeper dye, to the blackest of *Forgery* and most diabolical on *Murders* added the fairest and most painted *HYPOCRISY*, being the Disturber and Enflamer of a whole Distracted Kingdom, under the most specious Mask of the *Protectour* and *Saviour* of it. Nay, and is yet the more hardened Desperado of the two: as his Face is more *Brazen'd*, and his Heart more *Steel'd*; and that he has not all this while those *Horroures* of Conscience enough about him to make him fly to the same *Medicinal Halter* of his Predecessour.

However as the Fanatick *Overfondling* and too much *Hugging* of the late *Beastly Popish Discovery* gave the Government an occasion to suspect the *True Father* of the *Dowdye*, whil't the greatest Outcry of *Popish Dangers* being bawld *LOUDEST*, and almost *ONLY* from the *Geneva Throats*, warn'd us to look for the *Old Serpent* lurking under these *New Leaves*. And accordingly never was a more accursed Legion of threatening *Devils* rais'd than from that filthy abominable piece of *Enchantment*; insomuch that the whole Genius of the Nation was almost all turn'd *Demoniack*: so no common Oblation of Thanks for a *National Deliverance*, are due to *Heaven* and *Heaven's Darling Kneegeront*, the *BEST OF KINGS* whose *Wisdom* and Princely *Resolution* alone stept *Boldly* and *Timely* forth to play the *Mighty EXORCIST*. Which to his never dying Glory he has performed with that wondrous *Success*, that succeeding Ages shall justly Record him in Chronicle, of all our Crown'd Heads the greatest *Founder* of the *CHURCH OF ENGLAND*, and even of *MONARCHY* it self, whil't the strongest *Pillar* of the First, and *Cement* of the Last has been the peculiar Work of his *OWN HAND*, *Viz.* By so great a Suppression of the dangerous Growth of *FANATICISM*, and this ever memorable Defeat of the *Machinations* of those most *Restless* and most *Formidable* Enemies, not only of the *MITER*, but of the *CROWN*.

Yet nevertheless as the *Popish Bugbears* are not quite vanisht, & the dying Confession of the late Traytor *Holloway* lays the greatest *Ferment* of the late damnable Conspiracy on the yet too spreading Panick Fear of *POPERT* still coming in; and indeed *Sidney* and the rest, nay *Russel* himself in his highest *Affectation* of dying Innocence still concurs in that Point, that their whole Uneasiness and Turbulency, with the intended *Stirs*, *Anglicè Insurrections*, were only levell'd against that Danger: whil't in reality the Storm now seems to be a little clear'd up with them from the *Valadoly'd* and *St. Jago* Quarter, the *Pilgrim* and *Black-bill Region*; and the lowring *Popish Clouds* are now only engendring nearer home, the *Wild-House* and *White-Horse* Consults and Caballings being by the *Insoleit Faction* removed, and most audaciously lodged in *WHITE-HALL* it self; considering, I say, how *Villany* and *Delesson* still retain their *POYSON*, and so many weaker Constitutions of *Fear* and *Ignorance* have not

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yet thrown off the **INFECTION**, this following Subject cannot come *unseasonable*.

Besides, not only my *Service* to my Country, but likewise my own *Vindication* demands it of me. For since the peccant *Whiggs* are angry with so open a Defserter: amongst their many Snarlings against me, there's none so common with them as "Hang him Rascal he turn'd only with the Tide, and in spite of all his Recantations, his *Popish Character* has that *sense* and *Truth* in it, that not He nor any Man will ever be able to Answer: and in spite of his Teeth will stand a perpetual Record against the Baseness of so vile a Turncoat.

As this is the general Clamour against me, 'tis high time publicly to clear my self from that Calumny, and by engaging my Pen in a **GOOD** Cause, lay open the naked Impotence of a **BAD** One, by unravelling the false Positions throughout that feeble *Pamphlet*. And though indeed much better *Pens* than my own have long since chastized that Licentious Libel, yet 'tis absolutely necessary my own Handy-work should give it this last Stroke.

And, Gentlemen, the better to recommend it to your Patronage, I shall not spare my self a tittle, but lash my own Faults as heartily as any other severest hand would do it for me. Which Integrity in this *Treatise* makes it the more presume to throw it self at your Feet, and the Author more confidently aspire to subscribe himself,

GENTLEMEN,

Your most Humble and

most Obedient Servant,

ELKANAH SETTLE.

THE

THE Present STATE OF ENGLAND

In Relation to

POPE RY, &c.



Real and Terrible have been the pretended Dangers of Popery; especially for some late years; and Indefatigable have been the Arts and Sorceries of Faction and Gallantry to conjure up this hideous Apparition, to fright the deluded Multitude both out of their Wits and their Allegiance. But not to insist much upon the Grosser Impostures of Fanatical Incendiaries, such as the old most Impudent Cheat of turning both the Best of PROTESTANT-KINGS, and a Protestant CHURCH it self into Popish and Antichristian; hoping that the most Vulgar Eyes and Humblest Capacities have fully seen through so Diabolical a Delusion: However, as there still remains upon some weaker Understandings, and unassisted Minds, a Terror yet invanquish't; the Business of this Treatise is to examine what National Operation or Influence a

REAL Popish Crown'd Head can have over the Lives, Liberties, or Estates of Englishmen, as now enjoy'd, and the Religion of the Kingdom, as at present Establish'd; and by confuting even the most Substantial of their Imagin'd Dangers, dissipate those False Fears of Popery, which no man possibly (I mean in my humble Station) has more unhappily rais'd than my self.

The wonderful State-Convulsions that Popery (or rather the Sophistry of Scribes upon that Theme) seems to threaten, are no where, I confess, more spitefully, more venomously, or indeed (considering the weakness of the Cause) more Artfully described than in that Libel call'd, *The Character of a Popish Successour*. But not to answer particularly to a Rapsody of Rhetorical Flourishes, a Tautology of Gay Words and Big Sounds to little or no Signification; which indeed is almost the whole Fargon of that Pamphlet, being truly the Best Reason the Subject would bear; I shall chiefly reply only to the Argumentative Part of it; or at least, that which was intended as such.

Therefore as this following Discourse will naturally fall under these two Heads, *Viz.* If Popery be ever Introduced, it can have only these two Doors for its Admission, Persecution, or Persuasion, I shall accordingly examine,

First, What Progress towards a National Conversion, and the Establishment of Popery, the CRUELTY and TYRANNY of it under a Popish Successour is able to make, by an Assault on the weak Side of Mankind their Conscience.

And Secondly, What Advance towards the aforesaid Conversion, &c. the SUBTILTY and ELOQUENCE of Popish Emisaries, and Jesuitical Seducers under the Umbrage and Encouragement of a Popish Successour are likely to work, by an Attacke on the Blind Side of Mankind their Ignorance.

To begin then with the First of the two, as the more Horrible Horn of the Beast; Persecution. The Character is not a little prolix on't. at old Popularch Arch-Devil Arbitrary Power, whilst POPE RY

PERV and SLAVERY, those always Twin Monsters, those *Never Separable Feinds* are so painted to the Life, with all their *Fire and Brimstone* round them, that it has little else from the *Beginning to the End* but the *Ratling of Chains*, the *Crackling of Flames*, the *Blazing of Smith-Field Piles*; and in fine, the universal *Groans of Destruction and Desolation* through the whole Land.

And for an *unanswerable Demonstration* of all those most certain Calamities from a *Popish Successour*. The Character tells you, that in the first Place, the *Romish Principles* are such, *That they value neither their Word, Promise, Vows, Oaths, nor Sacraments, but all their strongest Engagements are lighter than the very Breath that utters them.* Next, *That they so little consult either their Reputation or Glory, that there is no the most Abject Thing, that ever Crown'd Heads themselves shall not undertake, when Rome, or Rome's Interest shall command.* And Lastly, *That the putting all this Barbarity into Execution, is so highly meritorious in the Romish Church, that the Pope will undoubtedly assign him no Common Diadem in Paradise for this Undertaking.* But upon his Remissness or Tenderness in this Point, *bestunder him with so many Curses and Anathemas, as, an undutiful, unactive Son of Holy Mother-Church, a Scandal to her Glory, a Traytor to her Interest, a Deserter of her Cause; One while accusing the Lukewarmness of his Religion; another while, the Pusillanimity of his Nature, &c. till in short, To save a Faggot in Smithfield, he does little less than walk upon Burning Irons himself.*

But how is it likely, that *Rome's continual Bulls* (as the Character fancies) shall bellow so loud against a *Popish Successor for sparing a Faggot in Smithfield*, when under the *Insult and Execration of so Tyrannical Murderer* (for what in *Queen Mary's Days* was the Sentence of Justice, and the Legal Execution of the Law, must now be the highest Subversion of Justice, and Abrogation of Law) he must expose himself to the whole World as a greater Monster than *NERO*; so much a greater than *He*, as *Nero's Barbarities* were committed under the Ignorance and Darkness of Infidelity and Paganism, and this *Mahd Murderer and Butcher* under the Light of the Gospel: Nay, the terrible *Burning, Broiling, and Roasting* denounced in the Character, with the heating of *Popish fiery Furnaces like Nebuchadnezar's seven times hotter than ordinary*, with all the rest of the *Romantick Popish Throat-cutting*, will be ten times worse from a *Popish Successor* than the whole *Ten Primitive Christian Persecutions.* For a *Nero Caligula Domitian* and the rest of them, as they had the Law in their own Breath, and a *Sic volo, sic jubeo*, was as much Authentick in old *Heathen Rome*, as an *Act of Parliament* in little *England*; and consequently, how *Barbarous* soever the *Christian Persecution* was, yet it had the Face of Law, as being the Edict of the *Absolute Prince*, and thereby the *Ordinance of the very Government*: But such a *Scheme of Cruelty*, as being beyond the Reach of the *Prenominative*, and notoriously contrary to the *Christian Constitution* of the Kingdom, would, *ipso facto*, be ten times more dreadfully flagitious, as *the highest Violation of Law, and Dissolution of Government.* And what ever Opinion the *poor Fools of Man* may have imbibed of *Jesuitism, Papisme*, and all the *Chimerical Terrours from Rome*, how can that very *Rome* (that pretends but to *Christianity*) that has Canoniz'd so many of those suffering *Primitive Martyrs*, at the same time likewise make *Saints* of really *Wicked Monsters* amongst THEMSELVES, than the very *Heavenly Butchers* of those very *Martyrs*?

'Tis true, *Inquisition Houses and Lollards Towers*, and the Cruelty of *Fire and Faggot* we know have been frequent; but all this while they were never erected by *Standing ARMIES, Arbitrary CUT-THROATS*, nor *Military EXECUTION*, but Establish'd by the *Legislative Power of the Respective Governments* that used them, and consequently introduced with the solemn Institution of Law, as a necessary Support of the Community: neither has it been a Practice singular only to the *Papists*, to secure the Establish'd Religion, and thereby the Peace of the Civil Government by Capital Punishments, when the *Protestant Government* has done the like.

For Example, Does not the Character instance two several Acts of Parliament; one of *Queen Elizabeth*, in which, *not only the Popish Priests, that shall have taken Orders from Rome, and afterwards return to England, but likewise all Persons withdrawn by them from the Protestant Religion Establish'd, to a Reconciliation to the Church of Rome, are equally guilty of High Treason, and to suffer as in Cases of Treason.*— And a second *Act of Henry the VIII.* In which, the Refusal of the Oath of *Henry's Supremacy*, in Renuntiation of the Pope, was also made *High Treason.*

Now if every *Papist* in *England*, without lifting a Hand, uttering a Word, or imagining the least disloyal Thought against his Lawful Sovereign, his Crown and Dignity, or against the Peace of the Nation where he's a Subject, yet nevertheless, out of a point of Conscience, and meer Matter of Faith, cannot be induced to believe a *Temporal Prince* capable of being *Head of a Church*, but is invincibly perswaded (how erroneous soever) that the *POPE* is *Peter's undoubted Successour*, and *Christ's unquestioned Vicar* upon Earth, and cannot, without hazard of his Soul, so much as consent to acknowledge otherwise; yet notwithstanding, by the *Protestant Laws of the Land*, this *Invincible Perswasion*, without any other Crime, is interpreted *High-Treason*, and punish'd as such. Now I say, in this Case, what wondrous Difference is there between the Rigour of a *Popish* or a *Protestant* Constitution? This, that makes a *Defection from their Church-Establish'd* TREASON; and the other, from theirs, HERESY: This that punishes an *Apostate* with *Hanging and Quartering at Tiburn*; and the other with *Burning at Smithfield.* 'Tis true, that Branch of *Queen Elizabeth's* Statute that concerns the *Popish Layman's High-Treason* was never yet put in Execution; and I hope, for the Glory of the Reformation Establish'd by that *Illustrious Prince*, as so extremely Sanguinary, was never intended to be, being severe enough to give our *Popish Enemies* a Matter of *Re-Extermination*, though Enacted but in *Terrorem.*

But

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But here I beg the Reader to be assured, that I urge not this Comparison in Disparagement of our Protestant Laws, but only to satisfy the *Mistaken* Part of Mankind, that all such *Judicial Severities* under the Government of both Religions have ever been introduced by the most *Awful* and *Sacred* Authority of the rightful *Law-Makers* of the Nations, and consequently in the English Constitution, not only the King's, but the *Peoples* *Consent* and *Deer*; and so to convince them of the *unreasonableness* of that senseless *Synod*, that upon the Admission of a Popish Successour, all the fore-mentioned Cruelties, though *without* any such Induction of Law (and consequently with all the Injustice, Rapine, and *Gold-blooded Murder*, even to that formal Solemnity of Butchery, that humane Imagination would tremble at) *must* and *shall* be introduced. For alas! how ridiculously *extravagant* must those *Fears* be, that can add to Men's Senses into a Dread of that *prodigious* Stroke from Popery that was never given by *the* Creation. What *Magnifying Glasses* therefore must the *Popular Fears* see through, to behold such *Suspicious* *Unions* of Popery, as that *THAT* shall be that *NEVER* was, whilst a Popish Crown'd Head in England must be the first, nay, only *Royal* *Savage* of a *Popish* that ever Reign'd.

However, for once, let us suppose the *Devil* and *Pope* as familiar together as ever they were painted at a *Queen Elizabeth's* Night, and that this *Gospel Propagation* were really the *Doctrine* of his pretended *Infallibility*, and this *Bloody Mandate* to a Popish Successour the *special* *Edict* of the whole *CONSISTORY*, what would the *Execution* of that *Mandate* make towards the *Growth* or *Advancement* of Popery? God knows, so far from *promoting* the Romish Religion, that possibly there wants but that *One Attempt* to *shame* it almost out of the World.

For in the first place, 'tis so far from a way or means to *convert* even one Soul in England, that 'tis the only Course to increase their *Abhorrence* and *Execration* of that Religion, and bring the very *THOUGHT* of Popery even below *Damnation*. 'T would no more make *Converts* to Rome, than the old *Heathen Caldrons* and *Gridirons* to *Paganism*: For as the greatest *Prejudice* of Englishmen against Popery lies in their *Horror* of the *Cruelties* of it: so consequently nothing can contribute to the *Advancement* of it but the *Clamour* and *Mercy* of its *Professors* to reconcile us even into *meer Charity* with them: whilst the *Exercise* of the forementioned *unexampled* *Barbarities* would make us fall from our present *Ill Opinion* of Popery as a *Corrupted Church*, to believe it no *Church* at all, but rather an *Association* of *Spouters*, and a *Den* of *Cannibals* and *Tygers*: and the greatest *Operation* such *unprecedented Cruelty* could meet, were at best but to force the *frighted* People into a *superficial*, *counterfeit* *Compliance*, and make them *Temporize* a little, only to *compound* for their *Lives*; yet that *Temporizing* under so *Villanous* a *Persecution*, would be so far from a *True Conversion*, or any thing like it, that they'd only play the *Highest* of *Hypocrites*, come perhaps to *Masquerade* instead of *Ave-Mary's*, or be hunted into the *Popish Fold*, only to pray for a *favourable Opportunity* of having a *pul* at the *Throats* of the *Wolves* that drive them thither.

And Secondly, Besides the *Impotent Effects*, 'tis certain to find towards the *Heretick Conversion* the *Pope's Command*, may indeed *Consign* at any such *Arbitrary*, *Tyrannick Stake-burning*, or *Throat-cutting* from a Popish Successour, instead of *Advancing* of Popery by so *excentrick* a *Motion*, will be enough to *straggle* half the *Popish Hearts* in *Christianity*; for as *Implicit* as the *Faith* of the *Romish Zealots* is, and as *intirely* devoted as they are to their *Peter's Chair*, and *Mothers Church*, undoubtedly there are *Thousands* of them, that notwithstanding they can digest a *Waser* for a *G.O.D.*, can never be wrought to believe the *Transubstantiation* of such *visible Tyranny* and *Butchery* into *Righteousness* and *Christianity*, how *Zealous* soever they may be for the *Conversion* of so *Heretical* a Nation as *England*.

And that this would be the *Infallible* *Consequence* of all such *Barbarous Popish Measures*: they that will but look back to the *Annals* of *Queen Mary*, will find *Historians* telling us, That nothing so much advanced the *Reformation* as the *Mistaken* *Conduct* of *Queen Mary* and her *bloody Counsellors* in that Point. And Dr. *Burnet* expressly assures us, That the whole *Body* of the *Nation* grew to dislike the *Cruelty* of *Rome* [Abridg. Book the 3d. Pag. 275.] to that degree, that the *Popish Bishops* for their *Apology*, threw it off from *Themselves*, and openly laid it on the *King's* and *Queen's* *Commands*; inasmuch that *King Philip* for his *Excuse*, made his *Confessour* preach a *Sermon* at *Court* against the taking of *Peoples* *Lives* for their *Opinions* in Religion, and inveighed against the *Bishops* for doing it. By which means a *stop* was put to it for *some time*. But nevertheless, as the same *Severities* soon after return'd again, he tells us all along, That the *Nations* *Dislike* of it was *Universal*, and the repeated *Acclamations*, and *universal Transports of Joy* at the *Proclaiming* of *Queen Elizabeth* proceeded from the *Peoples* *Hopes* of better Days under Her *Scepter* than her *Sister's*. By which it appeared how weary the *Nation* was of the *Crust* and *weak Administration* of *Affairs* under the former *Reign*. And the *Joy* in this Change (he says) was so *Great* and *Universal*, that but a *Bad Look* was thought *Criminal*.

So that to balance Cases, if the *Severity* of *Burning* of two hundred and sixty *Protestants* in *Queen Mary's* Five Years *Reign* under the *Legal Sentence* of the *Then Law* of the *Land*, and in that *Respect* by the *Hand* of *Justice*, begat such a *Hatred* of *Popery*, and made so many *Converts* to the *Reformation*, that possibly 'twas one of the *Greatest Lists* to the *Damnation* of the *Romish Religion* in *England*; inasmuch that 'tis the *Opinion* of all wise Men, that a *Bonier* and a *Gardiner* did more towards the *Propagation* of the *Protestant Religion* than a *Cranmer* and a *Ridley*. How much infinitely more therefore must the *Exercise* of such *Popish Cruelties* from the *Hand* of the most *Arbitrary Tyranny* under the *visible Monstrous Face* of the most *notorious* *Illegality*, and the *blackest Injustice*, increase our *irreconcilable* *Detestation* of *Rome*, and by making more *Apostates* than

Profelytes to their Cause, heap up but fuel for the *Popish*, not *Protestant* Confusion: and so at best, this *Arbitrary Bloody Tyranny* can have no higher prospect than of committing Murders for meer Murders sake.

But to silence all Dangers of such *stupendous* papal *Excursions*. This barbarous Model of Gospel Propagation is at this present *Age* of the World wholly unpractised in all the *Popish Nations* in *Europe*, and excepting the *Spanish Inquisition* (and that too, seldom rigorous against any but the *Open Seducers* of the People from their Religion, to prevent the *Disturbance* of the settled Peace of the Kingdom under so general and unanimous a Conformity of the Roman Religion in *Spain*) There is now no *Popish Government* whatever, that proceeds against *Heresy* with fire and fagot, or any other *Sanguinary Punishment*; whilst on the contrary, the *Reformers* are more or less *Indulged* or *Tolerated* through almost all the *Popish Kingdoms* in the World; though 'tis true, that *Indulgence* or *Toleration* in the publick Exercise of their Religion is sometimes more enlarged, and other times more curtil'd, according to the more or less generous *Temper* of the Respective Kings that grant them; which though magnified at a prodigious rate by the present Dreaders of *Popery*, such as the *Tender-hearted Condolers* of the true *Protestant Dissenter* Count *Tekely*, &c. is no more than what is dayly done even by *Protestant Princes* in the same Nature, whilst the *Immunities* and *Privileges* of all *Dissenting Perswasions* against the *Establish'd Religion* of the Land, as being but the *Donation* of the Governments *Discretion* and *Care*, are increased or diminished, as the Favour of the Sovereign shall extend, or the *Policy* of the Nation shall require.

However, as all *Sanguinary Persecutions* of *Heresy* are now so universally left off, and that too, considering the *Popes* Influence over the Royal Sons of his own Church, undoubtedly with his own *Privy* and *Consent*: 'tis certain, that both He and his *Crown'd Heads* are by Experience convinced of the *Fatality* of such *Rigorous Ecclesiastick Extremities*, as wholly *ineffectual* to the Great Work *Designed*, the Intended Propagation of Religion. And consequently, the *Pope* must be strangely out of his *Right Sense*, to put a *Popish Successour*, and that in *England*, of all the Countreys of the Universe, upon a *Projection* so long out of Fashion in all the World beside; nay, and to a more *Spontaneous* height of *Extravagance* (as being positively against any Law or Right whatever) than was ever practised in the World before.

Nevertheless, laying *Policy*, *Prudence*, nay, *Common Reason* aside; for once, we'll dispense with all manner of *Incoherencies* and *Absurdities* whatever, and put the Supposition, That the *Pope* should be stung with that strange *Tarantula*, as to begin this *frantick Dance*, and a *Popish Successour*, that *Madman*, to follow him. The next Question that arises, will be, *How* he shall set this *Arbitrary Machine* agoing? And which way he shall find *Hands, Tools, and Materials* to build this Terrible *COLLOSSUS*, called *Arbitrary Power*. 'Tis true indeed, the *Character* tells us the way of doing it, as follows: *Let us but rightly consider, how far the Foundations of Popery (Viz. Arbitrary Power) may be layed in England. First then, if a Papist Reign, we very well understand that the Judges, Sheriffs, Justices of the Peace, and all the Judiciary Officers are of the King's Creation. And as such, how far may the Influence of Preference on these Constitutions cull'd out for his purpose, ere vail even to deprave the very Throne of Justice her self, and make our Judges use even our Protestant Laws themselves to open the First Gate to Popery. Alas! the Laws in corrupted Judges Hands, have been too often used as barbarously as the Guests of Procrustes, who had a Bed for all Travellers, but then he either cut them shorter, or stretch them longer to fit them to it. And after all this, the Character proceeds, and tells you, that to crown the Work, and make the Pope Absolute, this Popish Successour wants a STANDING-ARMY, and he shall have it; &c.*

This *True Blew Protestant Scheme* of Introduction for *Arbitrary Power*, by the way of distorting of our very *Protestant Laws* to bring it in, the *History* of the *Papish Plot* only excepted, is one of the most *Comical Whimms* that was ever invented. I confess indeed some intricate Cases in *Adum* and *Tuum* may occur, where the most *Impartial Judges* may be divided in their *Opinions*, even in *Matter of Law*, and the diversity of various, and almost absolute *Records* and *Statutes* in several lesser *Law-Matters* may sometimes admit of *Disputes* & diverse *Interpretations*, and a corrupt Judge under such a *Latitude*, may lean or turn as *Inclination* shall guide. But that part of our *English Law* that concerns our *Religion* and *Liberties*, the long and labour'd Work of so many *Successive Parliaments*; nay, and after the very *Lopping* of the *Prerogative* to secure the Subject by the *Abolition* of *Oaths ex Officio*, *Star-Chamber Courts*, *Court of Wards*, and by the Benefit of *Habeas Corpus Acts*, &c. the continued Care and Industry of our *Law-makers* for a hundred years together, stands so strongly fortified against all *Romish* or *Arbitrary Invasions*, that there's not the least *Cranny* in the Law left open for the Admission of the One or the Other. However, this part of the *Character* was very well timed for the Season 'twas writ in. For when the very *Protestant Clergy* and *Bishops* of the Land, the whole *Court*, nay and the *KING* himself not excepted, were all *helter skelter*, just upon being turn'd into downright *Papists* in *Maskerade*, 'twas not at all unseasonable to improve upon the *Fiction*, and bring in the *Protestant Laws* too in the *Crowd* for *Popish Maskeraders* among their *Fellows*.

However, notwithstanding this Pretended *Dangerous Inlet* to *Arbitrary Power*, the *Character*, by a certain *Fault* which I have read in a *Treatise*, called *Richard and Baxter*, (a Figure of Speech much used by that Eloquent Divine, and truly much borrow'd in the *Character*, being little else throughout) makes bold in another place point Blank to contradict this Passage, and positively affirms, *That to set up Popery or Arbitrary Power by Law, under the Laws we have already against them, is wholly impossible, and that our Laws will be but the Hedge to keep in the Cuckow. For Papists*

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and Slaves we must and shall be made, as the infernal Government of a Popish Successor. And to prove all this Breaking of all Laws whatever, it says in his own words.

How can the Force of Laws, made by a Protestant Successor, and a Protestant Parliament, in any sort bind a Popish Successor? When the very first Advance of the Pope's Supremacy [a very nimble leap] introduces that higher Power, those Clerical Ecclesiastick Laws, which no Secular, or any other Temporal Court can or may Controul, Law that shall declare, nor only the Statutes, and Acts of Parliament made against the Dignity of Mother Church, void and Null, but the very Law-makers themselves, as Hereticks, wholly incapable of ever having any Right of making any such Laws. No doubt they, but that Fire that burns those Heretick Law-makers, shall give their Laws the same Martyrdom.

Here indeed the Affairs are altered, and truly, the Matter much mended. This I confess, says the Character, and this, at least three parts of the Fools of English Mankind believe for Oracles. And though all our Records, Histories, Chronicles, and the whole Series of all Ages since the Conquest to this day, do notoriously prove the Contrary, yet this Popular Maxim, That the Romanists by their Ecclesiastick Laws, pretend to annul and make void all Secular Laws against their Church, and to incapacitate the very Prerogative and Authority of that Majesty, and those Law-makers that made them, though one of the most Impudent Falshoods in nature, is nevertheless one of the most received Vulgar Traditions that ever startled Ideots.

For Example, to begin with their very Heretick Emburend: The very Act and Factors of Rome was it not an Act of the Secular Power? In the very highest Reign of Popery, did, or could the Pope punish an Heretick Apostate by Imprisonment, Fine or Faggot, any further than by Parliamentary Permission, and excepting that the Clergy were made Judges of Heresy, and that too, by concession of the Secular Authority. Was not the Execution of that Law kept in Temporal Hands?

Nay, though 'tis true, the papal Power made many Usurp'd Encroachments here, through the Bigotry of the Government; yet, upon too hard Pressures from Rome, did not several of our Kings many hundred years before the Reformation, resume their own Original Right; and expressly in the Statute against PROVISORS under Penalty of Forfeiture of Goods, and Imprisonment for Life, forbid the admitting of the Pope's Legatine Bishops in England, or making Appeals to Rome, or taking Inductions to Episcopal Sees from the Pope.

And for Queen Mary her self, was there one Syllable of the Law's Enacted by her Father Henry, or her Brother Edward in favour of the Reformation, that she ever pretended to Over-ride by any Ecclesiastick Law or Pretence whatever? Nay, and did not the Pope's Supremacy itself, and that not till many a harding, and two years after she came to the Crown, come in by Act of Parliament, under several Limitations of his Power, with the Confirmation of the ancient Statute against Provisors, &c. and several other Boundaries, as much as to say, Move thence far, and no further.

But alas! what's all this to the Author of a Popish Character? Popery and Arbitrary Power in spite of Fate, shall and must be, set up. And therefore what Laws shall, or shall not get uppermost, is ene as Mr. Scribler pleases. For truly Paper put pen to paper, and Truth and Reason were never minded: and indeed, there was no need of either of them; for as that Pamphlet had the honour in the Title-Page, of being humbly offered to the Consideration of the HONOURABLES of Parliament, for Truth and Reason were immaterial to its Recommendation. For where an Oath, this Parantide past for Gospel, the Devil's in't, if a Popish Character could misfortune.

However, to confute that senseless Fear, that a Popish Successor will subvert the whole Foundations of the Government, and erect his own Arbitrary Edict, for the Supreme Standard of JUSTICE, and that he shall find those Popish Judges, Sheriffs, or any other Officers, or Ministers, that under the Protection of a Standing Army, shall make our Lives and Liberties wholly dependant upon the Capricchio and Pleasure of the Prince, and persueve thereto, shall furnish him with Galls, Gibbers, and Smithfield Piles, or any other Arbitrary, though less Sanguinary Persecution to convert us to Popery.

First, let us examine the Courage of all these Arbitrary Judges, Officers, and State Ministers that embarque in this Arbitrary Undertaking. They must be all those hardy popish Took, whether corrupted by Zeal or Interest, that they must not value all their own Lives, for notwithstanding whatever Protection or Impunity they may receive during the Life of their Royal Popish Driver, no sooner shall the next Protestant Heir succeed him, but every Mothers Son of them shall be answerable with their Heads for the least drop of Protestant BLOOD they have shed, or Protestant Liberty they have invaded. The Protestant Laws of this Land will not be so tamely overthrown, without a certain Vengeance attending it, in such that those bold Babel Builders, these Arbitrary Popery Raisers must either be so generous to their King as the Indians were to their Husbands, and make one glorious Funeral Pile upon his Grave, or else resolve to live to offer up their Heads to the very Sword of Justice in the Hand of a Lawful Authority, which themselves before have so lawfully abused in their own.

And that the Liberty of the Subject is in tender in the Eye of the English Government, the very misusing and torturing of Hereticks in Prison, though under the private order, is liable to the most in-nomious of Deaths, and though done in a Popish predecessors Reign was sufficient to have taken the great Statesman Bannier's head off, but only that Queen Elizabeth's were interposed, as willing to stain the beginning of her Reign with Blood. No Reforid Abridge in Buo, and so forth. And if his illegal Compliance with his Prince, was so Capital an Offence, what must the more violent interruptions of Arbitrary Rapines against the whorled Liberty of the Protestant Subject, now fall down upon the bold Invaders Heads.

'Tis no difficult matter to possess the *overcredulous* World, the *easy* swallowing Multitude, with what wondrous Atchievements the Zealots of Popery shall undertake, and what indefatigable Labours and Hazards they will go through for the Re-building of their *Faln Temples*, when animated and influenced by a Popish Sovereign.

I acknowledge ('tis true) there is no Courage more *daring* than that which Zeal inspires; and no Zeal possibly more *violent* than that of the Papists, and undoubtedly for *Rome's* Restoration, there would be many venturous and bold Champions amongst them in so *Meritorious* a Cause.

But alas! every *Heroe* is not a *Samson*. There are, no doubt, those of them that would spare neither *pains* nor *study* to propagate their own Religion; though never so indirectly; those possibly that would have it in their Power (if they could come handsomely by it) to use their Heretick *Adversaries* with as little *Mercy* as *HE* did his *Philistian Enemies*; but alas, not with his *Hardiness* too, as like *Him*, to pull down that Roof upon their Heads to their own inevitable Destruction; only to have the pleasure of crushing some of *US* with them.

We read, I confess, that *pro Aris & Focis* men will venture far. Yes truly, for their Religion and Estates together they will do so. But in the Popish Case, where the *Founding* of the *One* will be the *Destruction* of the *Other*; where the *Setting up* of their Religion, will be the *Forfeiting* not only their Estates, but Heads too; 'tis more than a hundred to one, betwixt these two so directly opposite Interests, but that the keeping of their *Skin* and *Bones* warm on the *one* side, may make their Zeal a little the cooler on the other. For let me tell you, where the *Erecting* of the Altar will at long run make the *Builders* the *Sacrifice*, in all humane probability that Popish Temple will go but slowly up, whose Stones are to be dug out of so fatal a *Quarry*.

'Tis very remarkable in *Queen Mary's* Reign, when by the Majority of her Parliament, the Protestant Religion then but in its *Minority* was abolish'd, and the *Romish* Government and *Papal Supremacy* Re-establish'd; and indeed the Grandure of *Rome* even to *Heretici comburendi* maintain'd. Yet that *Parliament* that had it absolutely in their power to gratifie the *Pope's* utmost Wishes, refused the returning his *Church-Lands* again.

Nay, the *Parliament* were so averse to the thought of such a *Restitution*, that they had never been wrought up to the restoring of the very *Supremacy* it self, and of making of all those favourable Acts towards the re-installing of *Popery* again; but by much pains used (as *Burnet* in his *Abridgement*, pag. 268 says) by the policy of *Bishop Gardiner*, to ensure the Kingdom from the Fear of coming under such Tyranny from *Rome* as their *Ancestors* had groan'd under, and likewise from the Loss of the *Abbey-Lands*. Inasmuch that *Gardiner* promised them for Removal of all such Jealousie, that all the old Laws against *Provisions* should continue in Force, and to shew them that *Legates* should exercise no dangerous Authority in *England*, he made *Pool* take out a License under the *Great Seal* for his *Legantine* Power; and for the other, *Viz.* the *Abbey-Lands*, he promised both an Act of *Parliament* and *Convocation* confirming them, and undertook that the *Pope* himself should ratifie the *Alienation* of the *Church-Lands*; which History tells us, was accordingly done.

Nevertheless, as this *Papal Dispensation* came very unwillingly from *Rome*, being only a *Forced Compliance* and *Temporizing* with the *English Obstinacy* in that point. The *Queen* her self restored all the *Church-Lands* in her Possession, and proceeded so far as to the Re-building of several Religious Houses, declaring to her *Treasurer*, and some of her other *Officers*, that she thought her self bound in Conscience to restore all the *Church-Lands*, as being unlawfully acquired, and not to be held without a Sin: (as *Baker* in his *Chronicle* tells us) Nay, the *Pope* himself set out a *Bull*, excommunicating all that kept any Lands belonging to *Abbeys* or *Churches*; which gave such an Alarm to the Nation, that *Gardiner* was forced to pacifie them, by telling them, that *Bull* was intended only to the people of *Germany*, and not *England*. However, the *Pope* continued his high *Resentments* against the *Undutifulness* of *England*, that he could not forbear telling the *Queen's Ambassadors*. (*Abridg. pag. 221.*) That it was beyond his power to confirm *Sacrilege*, and all were obliged, under the pain of *Damnation* to restore to the last Farthing every thing that belong'd to the *Church*; he said likewise, that he would send over a *Collectour* to gather the *Pretence*; for they could not expect that *St. Peter* would open Heaven to them, so long as they denied him his Rights upon Earth.

Yet all this made so little Impression on the *Commons* of *England*, that whatever Conscience might dictate, their *Priests* insinuate, their *Popish Successour Solicits*, or their *Pope* himself endeavour, so powerful was *Interest* above Conscience, and all other *Motives* whatever, that several of the *Commons* in *Parliament* lay'd their hands on their Swords, and declared that they would not part with their Estates, but defend them. And every Motion that way, was always carry'd in the *Negative*. (*Abridg. of the Reform. B. 3. pag. 309.*)

Now, pray, for once, let us compare Cases. If the *Papists* in her Reign, with the highest *Papal Dominion* and *Sovereignty* in their own Hands, under an Establish'd *Roman Church*, against both their *Priests* and their *Prince*; nay, a *Prince* too, with her *Heretick* under her Feet, and her Religion in the very *Saddle*, could refuse both their *Pope*, and their *popish Successour* so just and so *Sacred* a Right, and so important to his *Church's Interest*, and that too, when with all Safety round them, they might have confirm'd their Oblation even by the strongest Bonds of *Law*; so on the other side, how shall it be suppos'd that the more *prodigal* *Papists* in our Age, in the quite contrary extreme, shall gratifie the unjust Demands of a more *Impotent* *popish Successour*, under the lowest *Ebb* of *Popery* against all *Law* or *Pretence* of *Law* whatever, by launching out into the most notorious Violation

Violation of all the highest functions of Right and Justice, and the most openfaced Tyranny and most impudent Barbarity in the world, and all (forsooth) for the Establishing of Popery ; and all, God wot, too little for the Work ; and this too, to the running themselves into unavoidable Jails and Gallies ; and not only to the ruining of their Estates, but to the cutting off of the Lives of Themselves, and even the very RACE of Papists under the next immediate Crown'd-Head that succeeds.

Besides, as boldly as the Roman Zealots stand up for the Interest and Dignity of Mother-Church, and the Grandeur and Dominion of their Peter's Successour, not only the Papists, but the very Priests themselves are not so overcourageous in this Cause as the World suspects them. For Instance, in Henry the Eighth's Reign, the whole Clergy of England, by a State-surprise upon them, were found guilty of a Premunire, by submitting to Cardinal Woolsey's Legantine power, as derived only from the Pope's Authority, and thereby expressly against the Statute of PROVISORES, an old dormant Law, made several King's Reigns before, though rarely, or never put in Force, by reason of the Remissness of the Government, and the Supineness of the Nation and Kings Submission to Rome, and therefore unwarily transgress by the Clergy now. By virtue however of which they had forfeited their Goods and Chastels to the King, and their persons to be imprisoned. Upon the King's Menace of executing which Law (Reformat. Book the 2d. pag. 112.) the Convocation of Canterbury, in tenderness to their Skins and Estates, brought a Petition to his Majesty, acknowledging him in the Title, Protector, and Supreme Head of the Church and Clergy of England. Which was agreed to by nine Bishops, 82 Abbots, and the majority of the Convocation in the Province of Canterbury, praying him to accept of 100000 l. in lieu of the Punishments incurred. And the Province of York soon afterwards consented to the same Submission, with the Offer of 13340 l. for obtaining the same pardon.

Infomuch that we find the very popish Clergy themselves so servilely compounding for their Hammon, and their Carcases (not so much in the Voluntary Tribute of their Purfes) as with the Renunciation of the Pope's Ecclesiastical Supremacy, the very brightest Jewel in the Tripple Diadem, and consequently by this fordid Compliance, even the Priesthood it self by their own Leading Art, gave the fatal Original precedent to the succeeding Act of Parliament to confirm that Supremacy in the Crown, and so struck the first main Blow towards the shaking of the Romish Prerogative in England, and thereupon Conspired to the greatest part of the ensuing Fatalities to their Religion it self.

And therefore, if the Ecclesiastical Sons of Rome could ward themselves from the Stroke of Law due to that less Capital Transgression THEN, by denying their very Pope : Why must the Sons of Rome be so prodigiously Fool-hardy NOW, as to run themselves into a more Dangerous and more Mortal Noose of Law for his Vindication.

'Tis very easie preaching to Fools and Madmen (as the popish Character has very Rhetorically done) what miraculous Fire and Faggot Feats, or other Arbitrary Extravagancies the wonderful Papists under a popish Successour shall do. But as great a Deity as the Romanists make of their Keeper of the Keys of Heaven, as the Devil (speaking of Job) makes answer to God Almighty, put forth thine hand, and touch him in all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy Face. So let his Holiness put these Zealots upon that Hard Task, where their Necks are sure to stretch in the Service, and Obedience will be so little a part of the Sacrifice they'll make his Divinityship in such a Command, that all his Bell, Book, and Candle will be too little to conjure up half hands enough for so ungrateful and so cursed an Employment. Whatever pleasure they may take in bringing Us to Stakes and Gibbets, they are not overfond of Martyrdom themselves. And though Great is their DIANA of Ephesus, whilst Profit and Safety go along with her, and upon Reasonable Terms, much might be done to exalt her ; yet ther's that Universal Charm in that thing call'd OUR ALL, and that strange superseding Quality in those potent Operators, Self, and Self-preservation, that it over-rules the highest Excursions even of the most daring Zeal, and the very biggest Devils of Outrage and Tyranny are laid by no other Spell.

But perhaps it may be objected, That to incourage the bold Labourers in this Harvest, this popish King, to prevent the Ruine both of his Cause and his Party, will take Care, in case of a protestant Heir, to divert the Succession, and continue the Crown upon some other popish Head ; and so by a longer Usurpation of this Arbitrary Supremacy, and a more lasting Persecution of the Protestants, provide as much as in him lyes, that the propagation of the Romish Faith may be compleated in succeeding Ages, upon so good a Foundation lay'd in his Own.

This foolish Supposition is so lowly ridiculous, that ther's scarce a shadow for such a Fear : For (alas) there will be so little Hopes of a popish Usurper's mounting the Throne, after so notorious a Tyranny under a Lawful popish King before him, as nothing can scarcely be more impossible. 'Tis possible indeed, the Duty of our Christianity, and the Bond of Passive Obedience, as having the Lawful Power of no other Weapons but our Prayers and Tears against the Tyranny of our Lawful Prince, may rise up our hands, and keep us in the Bounds of Peace and Resignation during his Reign. But the setting up of a popish Usurper after him, in wrong to the Imperial protestant Right Heir, will undoubtedly ingage all the Protestant Hands and Hearts against so impudent an Invader ; (and if Occasion require, his Protestant Royal Neighbours in such a Cause) whilst the taking

up Arms in such a Quarrel, which had been *Rebellion* against his Predecessour *before*, would be the work of their highest Duty and Allegiance now. And as the Remembrance of their *past* *Take* to all true English Spi. its, would certainly *double* *Edge* their very Swords; so, in so just a Cause, 'twould infallibly spur them to so perfect, and so unanimous a *Rebenge*, as to cut off their popish *Enemies*, even to the last Man. Now what popish *Usurper* shall venture to pass such an *Ordeal* to a *Throne*? Or what hopes a popish King can have of such a *Successour*, or of accomplishing his own popish *Designs* on such a *Basis*, let common Reason judge.

And therefore the Pope must have a very little *Paternal* *Care* of his Royal Son of Rome, and indeed of all his *Catholick* Sons in *England*, as to embark them in a Cause so apparently *Destructive*, whilst by misleading them into such sanguinary, illegal Cruelties against the *Protestants*; and all for an impossible *Conversion* of a Nation, he runs his own darling people, *Rome* and *Branch* into an inevitable *Fate* under the next *Protestant* *Successor*, exposed not only to the highest popular *Swords* and *Fury*, but even to *Cords* and *Axes*, and the severest *Stroke* and *Vengeance* of *Law* it self. But possibly their *Fate* shall not wait so long as the next King's *Coronation*, but overtake them in the first *Onset* of their popish *Barbarity*. For let us but look back to the *Gun-powder* *Treason*, a Plot where *Faux's* *Powder-Barrels* were neither like *Olea* his *Tenbury* *Mustard-Balls*, nor his *Black Bills*, *Invisible*. A Plot too, where the *Conspirators* dyed not *Tongue-tied*, but confessed their *Guilt*, without that wonder-working *Dispensation* of asserting a *Counterfeit* *Innocence*, to the stretch o their *Salvation*, and *Renuntiation* of their *God*, on the very *Brink* of *Eternity*. Let us look back, I say, to the *Discovery* of that *Plot*: and *History* informs us, that 'twas as much as the *King*, *Court* and *Government* could possibly do to restrain the *people's* *Rage* from *Butchering* all the *Papists* in *England*, the *Guilty* and *Innocent* together in the *Revenge* of so barbarous a *Machination*, though *uneffected*: tho by *Providence* *detected* and *frustrated*. And if the *Genius* of *England* was so highly exasperated, and so furiously transported in *Zeal* for their *Prince's* and their *Representative's* *Danger*, though *past* and *escaped*. What *Security* shall the *Pope*, or his popish *Successour* promise themselves, that the *people's* *Zeal* for their own *Dangers* *Approaching*, will not be as much transported too. And that the *Eruption* of *Spanish* *Fires*, with the dragging of their *Fathers*, their *Wives*, their *Children*, or their *Kindred* (and possibly their own *Town* next) to a popish *State*; will not equally, if not more violently inflame them into as great, or greater *Outrages* than the *Gun-powder* *Plot* could do.

But whether this certain Ruine should pursue these *Arbitrary* popish *Instruments* either *sooner* or *later*, and that it were really possible, these, or any other *Illegal* popish *Measures* might give us some *Trouble* and *Disturbance* during this popish *Monarchy's* *Reign*. How wretched a piece of Work must the *Wisdom* of the *Pope* and the whole *Conclave* undertake, to make *Popery* and *Arbitrary* *Power* under a popish *Successour*, those *Feeble* *Serpents* that shall but just bite our *Heels* to provoke our succeeding *Vengeance* to crush their *Heads*.

In the second year of *Queen Mary*, after the *Repeal* of *King Edward's* *Laws*, but before the *Reformation* of the *Pope's* *Supremacy*, we are told in the *History* of the *Reformation*: (*Abridg. B. 3. pag. 253.*) of a project proposed by the *Spanish* *Ambassadour* to the *Queen*, of assuming the power of a *Conquerour*, and ruling at pleasure; by which she might restore both the *Religion* and the *Abbey-Lands*, and be under no *Restraint*. This she communicated to her *Chancellor* *Gardiner*, and charged him to give her his *Opinion* of it sincerely, as he would answer to *God* for it at the last day. He read it carefully, and told her it was a most pernicious *Contrivance*, and begged her not to listen to such *Platforms* which might be brought her by *base* *Speichants*. Upon that she burnt the *Paper*, and charged the *Ambassadour* to bring her no more such projects. This *King* *Gardiner* great *Apprehensions* of the *Mischief* that *Spanish* *Councils* might bring upon the *Nation*: and so he procured the *Act* to be made; by which the *Queen* was bound by the *Law*, as much as her *Ancestors* were.

Now if that *Bloody* popish *Zealot* *Gardiner* was so violently averse to the *Thought* of bringing *Arbitrary* power into *England*, for what Service hever to the *Romish* Cause, as in his *Opinion* so most pernicious; when at the same time the *Majority*, or *Half* of the *Nation* at least were of that *persuasion*. And if popish *Standing* *Armies* could have done the *Feat*, they were ten times easier to be rais'd for any *Arbitrary* popish purpose then; especially too, when the *Queen* lay in the *Bosom* of that potent *Spanish* *Husband* (witness his *Invincible* *Armada* soon after against *Queen Elizabeth*) that could have lent her a very considerable *helping* *Hand* from *Foreign* *Assistance* to push on the project, had her *English* *Strength* been *insufficient*. Now I say, if nevertheless the *Design* was deem'd so pernicious then, what popish *State* *Councillors* at this time of day will run their own and their *Prince's* *Fingers* so far in the *Fire*, as to advise him to any such *Arbitrary* *Projection* now, under so low a *Ulane* of *Popery*, that scarce the 200th. part of the *Nation* are of that *Religion*, and therefore infinitely more pernicious than in *Queen Mary's* *Case*, and consequently, which nothing but the most abandon'd *Lunacy* can ever pretend to advise, or attempt.

'Tis true indeed, the popish *Character* lays down a most *Expeditious* *Method* of raising this dreadful *Standing* *Army*, that are to accomplish the mighty *Feat* of *Popery* and *Slavery* under a *Romish* *Successour*; which for the *Reader's* *Diversion* take as follows.

To make the *Pope* *Absolute*, there wants a *Standing* *Army*; and the shall have it. For who shall hinder him? Nay, all his *Commanders* shall be qualified even by our present *Protestant* *Test* for the *Employment*. He shall have enough *Men* of the *Blade* out of one half of the *Gaming* *Houses* in *Towns*, to Officer twice as many *Forces* as he shall want. 'Tis true, they shall be *Men* of no *Estates* nor *Plinings*

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ples. But they shall fight as well as those that have Both. For people are ever as Valiant that have their Fortunes to raise, as those that have them to defend: Nay, of the two they shall be the more Faithful. For they have no Property to be concern'd for, and will more zealously serve him, by Reason their whole Interest and Estates lye in Him. And that this Army may be more quietly raised, how many honourable Pretences may be found? Perhaps the greatest and most important Preservation of his Kingdom shall call for it: and then upon second Thoughts, instead of defeating some Foreign Enemy, they are opportunely ready to cut our Throats at home, &c.

This Projection I confess is the only passage through the whole Character, that endeavours to make out the possibility of any part of the numerous popish Mischief's denounced through the whole Pamphles. For all along it absolutely supposes the power of a popish Successour's doing whatever he pleases; and after so fallacious a *Petitio principii*, it leaps over all Mountains in the way, and only labours to prove the Depravity of a popish Successour's Tyrannical Inclinations, and give him the Will of putting that power into Execution.

But to examine the Depth of this Projection, granting such a Set of Atheistick Officers could be found; what then must their Army be? Here's a Foreign Invasion, or some other Honourable Cause proposed, and an Army rayed for that seeming Intent and Purpose: an Army of papists they cannot be, for there is not 40000 Men, Women, and Children of that persuasion in the whole Kingdom, and consequently, far short of 10000 Fighting Men amongst them all; and possibly, not one half of them neither, such Foolhardy Desperadoes, as to hazard their Lives so madly and so extravagantly in so unpromising a Cause, so unaccomplishable a Design as Subjecting of England by the Hands of the papists. So that an Army of Papists can be no part of a popish Successour's Thoughts.

And that the number of the papists in England is really no Greater. The King's Indulgence formerly to those of that Religion, in gratitude for their Loyal Endeavours at Worcester; and indeed through all his Fathers Distresses; has been so far from putting them to the Shifts of Disguises or Concealment of their Perswasions, that before the late wakening of the Laws against them, the papists were every where as visible, and generally as distinguishable from the rest of Mankind as one Sex is from another; insomuch that (unless their Numbers have increased by Converts made since the popish Discovery, and the Execution of the Statutes against them) there's scarce one papist in England, that all his Neighbours round him cannot particularly point at. And how thin sown those Papists are, is notoriously manifest, when in many and many a ten Parishes together in England there is not three Papists, and the whole number computed through the Nation, scarce the 200th. Man of that Perswasion. Notwithstanding there have been many Fanatical Pretensions of wonderful popish Dispensations; by vertue of which, there are at least thirty or forty thousand Church-papists as some old Oliverian Rebels shall tell you, tolerated by the Pope to an Absolute Protestant Uniformity, and ready upon occasion, to show themselves in their proper Colours. The Villany of which Damnable Falshood is sufficiently apparent, from the forementioned Indulgence. For why such a Dispensation? Why a playing the basest of Hypocrites, and Bantring with Religion, Sacraments, nay, G O D himself; (as such a Dispensation is no less) when under so universal an Impunity, there was not the least Occasion for it? There's a natural Pride in all Religions to avow their own Principles; and no Man, like St. Peter, denies his Master, unless, like him too, under some Apprehension of Danger in Owning him. And therefore these papal Dispensations must be the Second Part of Oies his Commissions, and nothing but the Restless Malice of Schisme, and the Diabolical Spirit of Rebellion can raise so false an Alarm of popery, and bugbear the Ignorant Rabble by so vile and so cursed an Imposition.

But to return to our Standing Army. An Army of Papists is not to be had; and an Army of Atheists is as unfeizible as the other. For whatever dissolute Debauchees might possibly be culled out (as the Character tells you) of no Religion nor Principles, for a few particular Officers; the whole Gros of an Army of the same Stamp is not in verum Naturâ: For if a popish Successour will have an Army of English-men, he must take them as he finds them, the loose and poorer sort of Rabble, the Bore and Peasant, the Refuse of the Shop and the Plough, which are ever the Composition of Armies in a Kingdom not so extraordinary peopled as England, and these must be the Hands that this popish Successour must raise for his Standing Armies. And if so, how far the Genius of the Commonalty of England lyes towards such a popish Undertaking; and this No-popish Army shall push on to these All-popish Designs, is worthy our Consideration.

Here's an Army expressly rais'd for a Foreign Invasion, or the like; and on the quite contrary, intended to cut our own Throats at home; ray'd for the Kingdom's preservation, & used for its downright Destruction; and all this, forsooth, because their Arbitrary popishly Affected Officers shall pull off the Vizor, and wbel about, and at the word of Command, the whole Army after them. But the Query is, Whether they'll obey that Command, and be so tamely indifferent pro or con in their Obedience, as to act the most opposite thing to what they were rayed for, and maintain perhaps the only Cause that they abhor.

I confess, in the Quarrels of Princes and States, as to Foreign Engagements, the vindicating of a National Honour, or the enlarging of Dominion, &c. Armies are generally of their Leaders Inclinations, and it boots little possibly to an English Army, whether ingaged against a Dutch or a French Enemy. But in Domestic and Intestine Jarrs, the Favour of the Cause ever animates the Arm that fights it. In all the popish Rebellions, or Massacres, whether in Ireland, Piedmont, or Paris, whether for or against the Prince; or in all the several Hugonot Rebellions in France, or any other

other Kingdoms of *Europe*; when *Religion* was the Quarrel, 'twas not the Command of the *Leader* but the Principle of the Party adhering to him, that was ever the *First Mover* on both sides. And a *popish* Cause in *England* can never move; but upon the same *Axle*. And nothing is more it le, than to fancy such an Extravagance in any People or Religion in the World, as to swallow such *Implicite Obedience* to Princes, as to do any Thing, or all Things because *Commanded*.

'Tis not the first time that through prejudice to the Person or the Cause, disgusted Souldiers have shot through their *Captains* instead of their *Enemies Heads*, and the Fate of *Kunisky* amongst the *Cossacks*, is no Original of the Kind; nor is it any such *Rarity* in History, to find whole *Armies* turn *Deserters*, and not only set up new *Leaders*, but new *Sovereigns* too. And truly upon engaging an *English Army* under so *Bloody* a *popish Standard*, what Assurance can this *popish Successour* propose to himself, not so much of going through with so crabbed a piece of Work, but even of his own meer *Safety* under the Protection of such *Hands* and *Swords* to uphold him? What Security shall he, or indeed can he in common reason expect from the *Stubborn, obstinate English Hands*, a People too apt to fly in the very Face of Princes upon a less Provocation than so ungrateful a piece of Service: and that upon raising an Army for any such kind of purpose, he has not put the Sword into their very hands that may guide it to his own Throat, whilst possibly they shall be opportunely raised for some more *Darling-protestant Favourite* to step into the Head of them, and dismount, not only their *popish Officers*, but *popery* too, and the very Royal *popish Nimrod* himself; nay, and perhaps use him with as little Remorse as the *Turkish Janizaries* have done several of their less hated *Grand Seignours* under a much more *Trivial Disgust*.

But to give an Example out of our *English Chronicles*, of the *Obedience* and *Loyalty* of *English Armies* to a King they hate; I shall only refer the Reader to the Fate of King *Richard* the Third at *Bosworth Field*. *Baker* tells us, that *Richard's Army* was double the *Strength* and *Number* of his *Adversarys*, the Earl of *Richmond's*. Yet see the *Infidelity* of an *English Army* to a Prince under the popular *Dissatisfaction* and *Prejudice*. A great part of his Army raised for his preservation, was actually engaged in his *Destruction*. For the Lord *Stanly* by a Revolt with 2000 Horse, Sir *William Stanly* with a party of 3000 more; and with these Sir *Walter Hungerford*, Sir *John Savage*, Sir *Brian Stanford*, Sir *Simon Digby*, all Commanders, who withdrew likewise with their *Respective Inferiour Souldiers*, amounting between them to the *Majority* of *Richard's* whole Army, turned all to the Earl of *Richmond*, and carryed the whole Fortune of the day to the *Victorious Enemies* Side, to the Loss both of *Richard's Crown* and *Life* together. Nay, he goes further, and expressly tells us, that in this Battle *Henry*, Earl of *Northumberland*, a Commander of *Richard's* Party, never *strook Stroke*; as likewise many other, who follow'd him more out of *Fear* than *Love*: which *Neuters* upon the same Revolt as the Lord *Stanly*, might undoubtedly have withdrawn their party to *Richmond* too. So that upon that dangerous and *Fatal Rock*, the people's Aversion, how easily are the *Crowns* and *Lives* of princes *Shipwreck'd*? and what little Trust can *Monarchs* repose in the *Strength* and *Swords* of *Armies* whose *Hearts* are not *Theirs*.

But alas! if *Richard* the Third found such *Treachery* from a *Revolting Army*; and an *Antipathy* so destructive to him; What *Truth* or *Faith* is a *popish Tyrant* like to find from *Armies* under a more *universal* and *inveterate Detestation*.

For wherein was King *Richard's* Crime so great? (I mean, as to the people) 'Tis true, he *Mouned* the *Throne* by the most *Inhumane* of *Murders*. And from that only *Grievance* proceeded the *Defection* of his *Souldiers*, that cost him his *Life* and *Empire*. But still, that was not half so great an Incentive to his *Revolting Subjects*, as the forementioned *Barbarities* of a *popish Tyrant* now. For though he was so deeply stain'd in *Royal Blood*, yet that was not so nearly felt by the people, as a *Romish Tyrant's* cutting his *Subjects* Throats would be, by reason that *Englishmen* have ever a greater *Tenderness* of *Themselves* than their *Princes*. Besides, whatever *Wrong* he had done to the *Royal Family*, never had Prince more endeared himself (or endeavoured it, at least) than he to his people. For *Baker* gives this Account of him, That having gotten the *Crown* by *pestilent Conisess*, he sought to *Establish* it by *Wholesome Laws*: for in no King's *Reign* were ever better *Laws* made, for the *Ease* and *Solace* of the people, or more *Immunities* granted to the *Subject*. Nor was there any thing of *Religious Difference* in his Case (Religion, that the *Character* tells you, sets all *Nations* in a *Flame*.) For *Richard* and his *Souldiers* were of *One Church*; and so no part of the people's *Hatred* (as in the Case of *popery* now) nor any part of the *Coals* was blown up from that *Wind*. Yet, if under no *Danger* to *Religion* and *Liberties*, no *Approach* nor *Apprehension* of *Tyranny* and *Slavery*, nevertheless his *partisides* alone outweighed all other *Merits*, and their *Hatred* of *Richard* only on that Score, could turn his *Subjects* Swords against his own *Breast*; how much more violent an *Aversion* will the *Hatred* of a *popish Tyrant*, both for his *Religion* and his *Cause* together produce, being enough to exasperate the *English Constitutions*; not only into *Rebels*, but even into *Sabages* too.

But for a farther Instance of *Revolting Armies*, the History of *Demetrius*, Emperour of *Russia*, is a memorable Example. This *Demetrius*, the only Heir of the *Empire*, was in his Infancy stoln away to be rescued from the *Danger* of his *Life* from the *Cruelty* of the *Usurper Boityz* *Jedovitz*, then in possession of the *Empire*, and another Body very like him, was exposed *Dead* to the *View* of the people. This *Demetrius* being brought up in *Poland* with the *Palatine Sandomir*, after he had travelled into *Germany* and *Italy* for the space of twenty years, gave himself to be known for the

(II)

Son of *Bazil*, and Heir of *Russia*, and by the Assistance of the *Palatins*, the *Jesuites*, and the Favour of the *King* himself, entred into *Muscovy*, well accompanied with *Germanes*, *Poles*, and *Cossacks*. Against whom *Boritz* raised a puissant Army. Nevertheless the Infidelity of his People, who rose in Arms against him, together with several *Losses* sustained, deprived him both of *Courage* and *Life*, and thereupon he dyed, but left his Son to succeed him; who was received indeed by some of his *Faction*. But the City of *Muscovy*, together with all the Country, having joyn'd with *Demetrius*, threw *Boritz* Son into Prison, and Establish'd *Demetrius* upon the *Throne*; whose Coronation, (as 'tis largely described in the *History of the Iron Age*) was attended with such loud *Transports* of the *People*, and such universal Acclamations of Joy, as could scarce be exceeded. Yet this very Prince had no sooner ascended the *Throne*, and was scarce yet warm in the Seat, but those very Subjects whose *Hands* and *Swords* had so cheerfully and vigorously asserted the Justice of his *Cause* and *Birtheright*, and advanced him to the *Empire*; nevertheless, understanding that he had embraced the *Romish Faith*, and acknowledged the *Pope*, and that he had introduced the *Jesuites*, as they apprehended, to endeavour the *Change* of the *Religion* (which in *Russia*, is the *Greek Church*) fell so totally off from their new *Allegiance*, and entred into so sudden and so perfidious a *Conspiracy* against him, that upon a General Uproar they fell upon the *Poles*, and others, as they were going to *Court*, insomuch that they overpower'd all the *Foreign Assistance* he had brought with him, and approach'd so near to his Palace, till the Emperour left his *Queen*, and got away, and upon pursuit, leapt down from a *Tower* through a *Window*; at the Foot whereof (being found alive) he was forthwith dispatcht, and the Cruelty of the barbarous Multitude continued upon his dead Body, which they tore in pieces: And so swift was the *Change* of popular Affections, and so violent the *Fury* stirred up by the meer Alarm of altering the *Religion*, that all this prodigious *Revolution* was wrought in a *Month's* Time after his Acquisition of the *Crown*.

And if the *Imaginary* Introduction of *Popery* (as this was hitherto no more) could raise so rapid a *Torrent*, and so sudden a *Turn* of *Tide* from the Revolting *Muscovites*; what miraculous Fidelity can a *Romanist* expect from *Englishmen*, under as great an Abhorrence of the Religion, and a more real Appearance of the asorenamed *Tyrannous Effects* of it.

But put the Case, the best and most plausible way, *Viz.* That a popish Successour (as some people will fancy) though really impossible) could raise a whole Army of the same *Stretching Conscience* as the Character has raised him *Officers*, a Crew of all *Atheists*, and neither *Principles* nor *Religion* were any part of their Consideration, and consequently plyable to any purpose whatever; as a Pack of such *Reprobates* as shall obey their Prince and his *Officers* in so unjustifiable a *Command*, and so unnatural a piece of Service as cutting the *Protestant* Throats, or upholding those Arbitrary Judges that shall do it; what Faith shall he dare lodge in an Army so Qualified? For what shall hinder them, upon any Opportunity or Overture of greater advantage, from turning as great *Regrets* against him as for him? and truly with as little Guilt, and as good Conscience on one side as 'tother. For an *Actual Obedience*, even to a Crown'd Head in the Execution of an *Unlawful Act*, especially so notorious as the *Massacring* of his Subjects, and *Destruction* of the Government, is as much against our Duty, both as *Christians* and *Subjects*, as downright to rebel against him. And if this Army can stretch so far as to such horrid popish Outrages, so much against the *English Grain*, 'tis very great Odds, but they'd much easier lean to their more *Natural Biass* on the other.

I need not insist much farther upon the manifest Inability of *Popery's* Advancement by *Armies* or *Arbitrary Power*, when *Arbitrary Power* of it self alone, without the other unwieldy Clog of *Popery* at the heels of it, has been ever adjudged so impracticable in *England*, that the very Conquerour himself, the *Norman William* thought not his *Victory* secure, but by ingaging to adhere to *William* the *Confessours* Laws, or at least, to introduce no *Novelties*, excepting such as *Tryals* by *Juries*, or the like; and these to the Priviledge, not Infringement of the *Peoples Liberties*. And the long and *Bloody Baron's Wars*, upon a less Invasion of *Liberty*, are a sufficient Demonstration of the *Uneasiness* of *Englishmen* under any Yoke whatever. Insomuch that a popish Successour, under the undeniable Suspensions, and at best, but faint Affections of his People, is so far from a Capacity of *Tyrannizing* either with *Armies*, or without them, that he has no other Support both of himself and his whole Party, but by following the forementioned Measures of *Richard* the Third, and either to in dear himself by making of *Wholesome Laws* for the people's *Freedom* and *Tranquillity*; or at least by keeping within the Bounds of those wholesome Ones they have already made for their *Security*.

Now with all these *Numerous* and undeniable *Blocks* in his way, why must a popish Successour be able, or indeed possess with so *Enthusiastick* a Presumption (for nothing less than *Supernatural Inspirations* will do it) as to Think himself able to accomplish that very Thing in *England* which was never done by Monarch before. Nay, to make the Presumption a little more prodigious, this very Successour, who of all the Kings since the Creation, has the worst Tools for such an *Atchievement*, must be the first and only person that is for undertaking it. For as a *National Slavery* is always the work of *Time*, and can get footing at best but by slow and subtle *Encroachments*; and likewise, if at all, is a thousand times more Feasible from a Prince that is the People's Darling, than one that is their Aberrion. How unfit a Prince will a popish Successour be, for so hazardous an Attempt, when the continual and united Jealousies of his Subjects will prevent the first part of the Danger, by fore-

watching even the least Surprise or Arbitrary Encroachment upon them, and next will never furnish him with half hands enough to perfect the Undertaking.

Well, but notwithstanding all this, there are a sort of People in the World that shall make Answer, that *Arbitrary Power* in a *Papist* is not a thing so new, nor so impracticable, when the Government of the now *French King* is so manifest a Testimony to the Contrary. And truly there are but too many Incendiaries in this Age, that distract the *Brainless* part of Mankind with almost no other Gorgon, viz. That the *French King's Standing-Armies* are to be the Pattern of a *papist Successor's* Government, and the Persecution of his *Hugonots*, the very Fate of the Protestants in England, whilst under the *Rose*, *Papery* and *Slavery* are to Copy from no other Original.

As this is one of the main Pretensions of the *Whig-Fears*, and indeed the *Top-Demonstration* of *Papery* and *Arbitrary Power*; so when truly examined, you'll find it just such an Apparition as *Otes's* bloody Pilgrims; the more terrible, the more ridiculous. For as 'tis the common Fate of all popular Arguments on that Subject; so much the more formidable, still so much the more airy the Phantom.

For first, not to insist much upon the General Mistake of Mankind, when possibly the *French Arbitrary Power* is infinitely magnified above what really it is; for excepting the *French King's* now and then fleecing an Over-rich Cheating Courtier a little Arbitrarily, and thereby, in truth, making but a Reprisal of his own, I could never yet learn by those that know the *French Government*, that any man's *Manu* or *Tuum* was Illegally taken away, or any Man's *Life* or *Fortune* stood or fell, but by the Judicial Process of the *Laws* of the Land. 'Tis true indeed, his Wars have been Expensive, but then his Revenues have been large to support them; and not only that, but his Foreign Depredations have supplied the greatest part of the Expence. Nevertheless whatever Arbitrary Taxes he may have rayed, to the Injury of any particular aggrieved Subject, or whatever Tyranny he may have exercised over the distressed and persecuted Hugonots, if either of the two can be properly Arbitrary or Tyrannick, when past into a Law, and made a *Verre* enacted by parliament, as both the Taxes and the present Hugonot Persecution are; the *French King's* Arbitrary Incroachments in France, are no precedent for a *papist Successor's* Imitation in England, and that because the State and Constitution of the Two Kingdoms are so extremely different, that there is not the least Ground for such a Foundation here as there.

For first as to the Nature and Genius of the People: In France, the Peasants *ab Origine* have not enjoyed half the Privileges and Immunities of the Freeborn people of England. And therefore under that sordid Education, as knowing no better, and being in a manner inured to Slavery, 'tis no such great wonder to see the *French Commonalty* submitting to such Oppression, as indeed, why should they otherwise, when they submit but to Law.

And if the *French King* has any greater Ascendance over his Parliaments than the Kings of England over theirs, to perform all this; why should that be any Rarity, when in reality they are of so different a Constitution from those of England, that they are rather the settled Magistracy of the Nation than any thing like our Parliaments; and as ours are of the people's Election, theirs in a manner only the King's, every Member of the *French Parliaments* holding his Office not only for Life, but even to his Heirs, unless alienated by the Prince upon a Forfeiture, or any personal Dislike; that in short, as being the Creatures of the King, they are truly more like a *Turkish DIVAN* than an English House of Commons.

But in fine, to make a Parallel of our Dangers between the State of the two Nations, which in truth is bringing North and South together. BECAUSE a *papist French King*, with the Majority of the Kingdom of his own Religion, the Religion Established by Law, and Flourishing in Glory; by help of such vaste Armies too, intirely of that Religion, and thereby principled for his own Service, can squeeze some particular of his Subjects Purse a little Arbitrarily, and oppress and persecute the poor forlorn Hugonots, a Party infinitely the Minority, disabled too from all power, and at highest, but suffered by the Indulgence of the State, and that even with the most favourable Aspect of the Government, under that pittance of Encouragement, that (for Example) to the whole Body of the Reformers inhabiting in that vaste and populous City of Paris, there is tolerated but One Hugonot Church, and that standing like our *Pancreas*, only more Miles out of Town, because I say, the *French King* under these Circumstances can do all this: THEREFORE (pray mark it) a *papist English King* with his Diminutive Romish Party, the most inconsiderable Handful of the Nation, under not only the Censure of the Law, but the utter Abhorrence of the People, with the help of an Army (if he has any) of a quite contrary Religion, and thereby wholly unprincipled for the Service intended, shall vanquish and subject the Protestant Establish'd Religion in all its Lustre and Strength, upheld by all the Fortifications of Law, and by Numbers even to a more than hundredfold Majority; whilst the English Protestants are not only to feel the *French Hugonots* Smart, but (if either the Fanatical Suggestions, or the *papist Character* speaks Truth) to groan under a hundred times (Oh! *Monstrum Horrendum!*) more dismal Persecution and Slavery: the present *French Arbitrary* Stretch being little more than a Fleabiting to our total Abolition of our Laws, Liberties and Religion.

But to make this *French Goblin* more monstrous still, there are some People that go a Bowes Shoot farther yet, and will tell you, that by the aforesaid almost Omnipotent Things called *Standing-Armies*, a *papist Successor* shall not only crush our Protestant Laws and Liberties to pieces himself, but likewise bestow our very parliaments to that degree, as to force them to the giving up our very Birth-

Birchrights to him, nay, to the very passing of at once both *Popery* and *Slavery* into *Law* it self; and then Lord have Mercy upon poor lost England. For alas! the same Absolute uncontrollable Sovereignty that the French King has over his *Parliaments*, is (they'll tell you) the intended Scheme of a *popish Dominion* in England. And then where! Oh where! is our *Religion* and *Liberties* when that black Day once comes?

Now in the Name of *Lucifer*, what Infernal Impudence reigns in the World, when such *Rank*; such *Nonsensical Stuff* as this can be asserted by *Rogues*, and credited by *Fools*. For besides the most infamous Calumny that this execrable Imputation throws upon the whole Body of the Nation, *Viz.* That *Englishmen* shall be such *rascals*, such *abjects*, such *despicable Wretches* and *Cowards*, as out of any personal Fear whatever, to yield up their *Laws*, *Rights*, and *Religion*, to the Ruine of themselves and their Posterity, and thereby offer, as it were, even their own *Throats* to the *Slaughter*. What Relation has the present Management in *France* to that of *Popery* in *England*, or the *French King's* Parliamentary Influence to that of a *popish Successour's*?

For whatever extraordinary Obedience or Subjection the *French Parliaments* may yield to their King in the grant of any *Oppressive Impositions* upon the Subject to advance their King's Exorbitant Power and Greatness; are the *French King's* Arbitrary Endeavours to root up the *Foundations* of his *popish Laws* and the *Establish'd Religion* of *France*, which *vice versa*, is the Case in *England*; so that if a *popish Successour* can hector our *English Parliaments* to no farther a *Compliance* than the *French King* does *this*, the Devil an Inch of Ground will *Popery* get in *England*; for as I take it, the *French Parliaments* are all *popish*; and as such, are in so little danger of their *Religion*, that truly their Prince in the other Extream is in the *highest Extravagance* of Advancing it.

So that unless we state the Parrallel between the two Kings *Thus*, *Viz.* (Supposing the *French King* a *Hugonot*, which is but turning our *Tables*) that then both his *popish Armies* and *popish Parliaments* would nevertheless be awed and bullied into that *intire Submission* to him, as to abolish the *Fundamental Laws* of the Kingdom, and thereby subject themselves and all their Brethren *Papists* to the self same Persecution and *Slavery* under the *Hugonots*, that the *Hugonots* suffer under *Them*; without which Supposition his Tyranny is wholly alien to our *popish Successour's*; and nothing but the most Villanous *Phanatical Sophistry* dares cant at this wretched rate, to pretend to make the *French Tyranny* a *Model* for *English Popery* to work by. But put the Case there were a *French Hugonot King*, and that had the forementioned purpose in Agitation, either by *Armies* or *Parliaments* (as pliable as the *French Genius* is supposed to be,) his *Ill Success* in such an Exploit might be soon guest, by the *Difficulties* and *Obstructions* of their *Hugonot Henry the 4th.* in his way to the Throne under but a suspicion of inclining that way. And consequently, what worse Success would attend the like *popish Changes* in *England*, under the manifest *disproportion* of the *English Papists* to the *French Hugonots*, is past dispute.

However, if neither *English Armies* nor *English Parliaments* can do the *popish Feat*, there's one last Expedient yet to vanquish all *Obstacles*, and that I assure you, (if no small Authors may be believed) a most puissant one, *Viz.* If the *popish Hands* in *England* are too weak to enslave us, this *popish Successour* shall borrow the Assistance of *popish Neighbours* to help out, and so what cannot be done by *Domestick Forces*, shall be perform'd by a *Foreign Army*, call'd over on purpose. This Expedient I confess, is so much the more remarkable, as it has some little Affinity to *Bedlow's St. Jago Expedition*, and truly has sometimes had the Honour to be harangued upon even in a *House of Commons*, as no small Danger from *Popery*.

But notwithstanding the Authority and Veracity this Projection may seem to arrogate from its Admission into an *Honourable House of Parliament*; upon due Examination, I am half afraid, 'twill prove but one of the *Observer's* downright *Twangers*. For if this *popish Successour* be for setting up *Popery* by pitch'd Battles and plain Conquest, and that too, by *Outlandish Aids*; in the first place he must have far more than tenfold as many *Foreign popish Hands* as he has of his own to pretend at least to a strength able to subdue *England*; nay, and in truth, here's one *unlucky Circumstance* attending, that is, if he can borrow *popish Neighbours*, 'tis odds but the *protestants* may borrow *protestant Neighbours* too upon occasion; for Princes have as often lent *Armies* to succour *oppress'd Subjects*, as to assist *Oppressing Tyrants*. But let that pass.

But supposing the best face of the thing, that there were some *Chance* for him in this bold Cast, and that after his setting of *Honour*, *Life*, *Empire* all at a Throw upon the hazard of *War*, there were only an even Lay of *Keeping* or *loosing* them, a *Cesar* aut *nullus*, 'twere a little more pardonable Venture. But as the Devil would have it, there's not one syllable of this in the Matter. For if overthrown, he's *irrevocably lost*, that possibly not only his own *Reine*, but that of all his *Royal Family*, and of *Monarchy* it self goes together. But admitting he *Conquers*, the Question is, whether the *Cesarship* on the other side be so *secure* or no?

For truly, what if the aforesaid *tenfold Majority* of *Foreign Conquerours* should make bold to pass a *Civil Complement* upon this *Successour* *Instant*, and the rest of his *popish Remnant*, and fairly keep the Victory when they have got it. For I assure him little *England* is a pritty Parcel of *Terra firma*, and 'twere no small Temptation to *popish* or *no popish* Fingers to be a little tenacious with so fortunate a Prize. And when those *Triumphant Foreigners* have tasted the *sweet Air* of so delicate a Spot as *England*, 'tis fourty to one whether *They*, or at least the *Crown's Head* that lends them, will be overhasty of resigning so inviting a *Trophy* as the *English Diadem*; and truly considering

dering the *Blackness* of the Cause they came over to engage in, if any Foreign Prince can lend an Army for so *Dishonourable* a Quarrel, which indeed all Nations and all Religions must cry Shame against, with much less *Dishonour* may he wear the *Lawrel* he wins, and assume that vanquish'd Kingdom to himself, when he robs but a Robber, and at most *deposes* a Cut-throat.

And therefore to make Instance in the Case, what popish Successour will venture to call over, suppose thirty or forty thousand French to enslave his people (and thereby at one dash loose his People's Hearts beyond all Thoughts of a Recovery) as thither indeed the Whig Fears seem to point) upon a Confidence that the now French King's Generosity, though possibly not the best Faith-keeper in Christendom, after the Accomplishment of the Conquest, will make so intire a Resignation of all Pretensions of Victory to Establish this Absolute Popish Sultan : especially considering the insatiate Ambition of that aspiring Prince to Universal Monarchy, and particularly to the Sovereignty of the Seas ; which though with all his present great Ships under the Maritime Weakness of France he cannot achieve, he might intirely possess by so opportune and so important an Addition to his Conquests as England.

Now they must have a wonderful Stock of Faith, with no small mixture of Madness, that can really believe any popish Crown'd Head in the World will ever play so cursed a Loosing Game, and take that Path towards Popery, with two such amiable Precipices both on the Right Hand and the Left, that the very Masterpiece of the Projection is but in effect writing his own MENE TE-KE-LE over his own Head.

So that all the forementioned Impotence and Impossibilities of popish and arbitrary Tyrannys Introduction into England, being fully demonstrated ; I have only this to add ; There is no greater Mistake in the generality of Mankind, than an Imbibed Opinion, that the Papists think themselves obliged to endeavour the setting up of their Religion hap-hazard, right or wrong, hand over head, without Consideration or Regard to the Issue or Success of the Undertaking ; and that in fine, a popish Successour will certainly muster all Forces and all Engines to attempt the Storming of the whole Protestant Liberty and Religion, though under a tenfold Odds of laying his very Bones at the Siege.

But the Grossness of this popular Errour will appear from the past Conduct of all the Papists in all Ages and all Countreys, when they never attempted a Rebellion, Massacre, or any such Monstrous Design, but where they had, not only proper popish Instruments for the Service, but also a popish Strength capable in all reasonable prospect of going Through-sitch with it. Besides a Bigot in Religion is nevertheless a Statesman in the Establishing of that Religion, and excepting such Bedlamite Enthusiasts as the old Fifth Monarchy Adventurers, there's Policy as well as Faith in all Churches ; and how far soever Faith may stretch, Policy moves in the Bounds of Reason, and he that can believe the greatest lying Miracle in a Romish Legend, will never trust to Miracles in a Romish Battalia. And were a popish Successour in his Nature ten times, if possible, a Bloody-minded Tyrant than the very Character has shaped him, if he wants Humane Strength to enslave us, let us not suspect his relying on Divine or Infernal Assistance, the Aid of Angels or Devils to help him.

And truly when a popish Successour shall seriously consider the Temper of the Head-strong English, a people always impatient of Wrongs, to that degree of Ill-nature in the Resentment and Prosecution of Ills above all Mankind beside, that whereas all other Nations cry [Run Rogue] 'tis observable the English Note is ever [Stop Thief] But above all, a People so nicely jealous of Liberty, that the very Name of Oppression (especially from the Crown-side) without the Thing, is enough to make them slip the Bit and run stark mad ; inasmuch that a King of England is but too justly call'd a King of Devils ; when he considers all this, I say, a popish Successour, a thousand to one, will never venture the raising those mutinous English Devils, without a Charm full strong enough to lay them again. And whatever his Inclinations might be for the Heretick Slavery, yet as

Vana est sine viribus Ira.

'Tis not the Thunder in a Popish Successour's Heart, but his Hand that can hurt us, and where the Arm's too weak, and the Bolt too untimely, let us never trouble our Heads with fearing the Blow.

But that Point, *Viz.* A popish Successour's POWER of Enslaving, Persecuting, Burning, &c. being sufficiently discuss'd, let us next examine the Veracity of the Character in another Point, that is, granting he either had, or fancy'd he had the Power of doing it ; Query, whether it necessarily follows that he must have the Will to do it.

The Character, 'tis true (as I said before) makes him plunge headlong into the Breach of all Promises, Vows, Obligations, Oaths and Sacraments, all the Dictates even of Morality and Common Humanity, and what not ; and renders it withall so inseparable an Impulse and Principle of a popish Conscience, that in a manner, that popish Prince that neglects so incumbent and meritorious a Duty, is little less in the popish Balance than a Judas or a Julian, &c.

Though I confess, for all this terrible Oathbreaking, the two Instances recited in the Character to prove this universal popish Infidelity are possibly the Poorest that a Man could wish to meet with. The First of them is Queen Mary's Breach of Promise of their Quiet Exercise of the Protestant Religion, made to the Norfolk and Suffolk Inhabitants that mounted her to her Throne, which I acknowledge was both ungratefully, and in the highest degree dishonourably done ; yet when truly weighed, is far from any thing of that damnable Law-breaking popish Perjury that the Character all along endeavours to blacken all Romish Princes with ; that on the contrary, though 'tis true, the

she broke her *Promise* given to *Capitulating Rebels*; for the *Norfolk and Suffolk Inhabitants* were indeed *little better*; for as their utmost Endeavours of setting their *Lawful Sovereign* upon her *Throne*, was their absolute indispensable Duty, whatever her *Requit* might be, yet the *Chronicle* tells us they refus'd the *Queen* any Assistance whatever till they had first condition'd with her, and extorted that *Promise* from her. And if nevertheless she broke that *Promise* afterwards with them; here was no *Tyrannick Cruelty* exercis'd, nor any *Coronation Oath* Violated, when she only burnt them by *Law*; and as her *Coronation Oath* oblig'd her to rule by *Law*, 'twas only her *Misfortune* to believe the *Equity* of that *Sanguinary Law*, and accordingly, to act by it, and consequently, their *Misery* to feel the *Scourge* of it.

The 2d. Instance of a *Certain Gentleman on the Other side the Water*, that once took the *Sacrament* never to invade *Flanders*; which since he hath so notoriously broken: and the Inference from thence, that a *popish Successour* will much more break all Oaths, for the *meritorious* Propagation of his *Religion*, when a *popish Prince* has violated even *Sacraments* themselves for his *irregular, unjustifiable Ambition*; is so impertinently urged, that nothing can be less to the *Purpose*. For that Gentleman's Breach of his *Sacramentary Oath* is no Sin of the *popish*, but the *Man*, not a Principle of his *Religion*, but the fault of his little or no *Religion* in so slight a *Regard* of so *sacred* an *Obligation*, wherein his *Ambition* overpowered his *Christianity*; and possibly under his *Lust* of *Power*, an *Oath* upon the *Bible* or the *Alcoran* might be much of a *Strength*.

But to find a better Example of *Popish Perfidy* than the *Character* affords, I acknowledge the *horrid* and most *barbarous Infidelity* of *Charles the 9th. of France*, and the *Impious and Execrable Massacre* of the *French Protestants* by that *Inhumane and Treacherous Monarch's* *Machinations*: which *Davilah*, an *Historian* of his own *Church* describes with *Detestation*, and which all *Religions* must remember with *Horror*: but at the same time, to do *Justice* likewise to the *Hugonot Guilt*, all good Men ought to reflect on the three *Hugonot* *Rebellions* in his *Reign* (though whatever their *Provocation* were) as wholly *unallowable* by the *Laws of God*; and their *Daylight Bloodshed* such a *Blot* in a *Christian Scutcheon*, which nothing but the others *Midnight Murders* could exceed; and possibly those *Rebellions* no small *Incentive* to that *Diabolical Assassination*.

I confess likewise, that I have read in a more *sacred Record*, how the *Jews* upon *Piques* and *Re-venges* have cut off almost *whole Tribes* amongst them; but at the same time, as 'tis certain, those *Throat-cuttings* committed upon their *Brethren*, were against their *Religion* and the *Laws of God*; and which nothing but *Exemplary Penitence* could *Aton*e, so the *Massacring Spirit* of *Charles the 9th.* when rightly scan'd, will not be found so *Canonizing* a *Qualification* in a *Romanist*, as the *World* suspects it.

For if it were really that *Signally Meritorious Principle* of *Poper*y, how comes it about that there's so few *Popish Champions* in so *Holy* a *Popish War*? For to instance the *Practices* of the *Romanists* in all *Kingdoms*, and all *Ages* since the *Reformation*. In the first place, in *France* (as *Dr. Burnet* in his *Preface* to his *Rights of Princes* assures us) the *Hugonots* enjoyed their *Liberties*, and the publick unmolested *Toleration* of their *Worship* for several *King's Reigns* together; nay, and what's particularly remarkable, the *Edicts* that confirm'd that *Toleration* were granted all by *popish Kings* and a *Majority* of *Papists* in *Parliament*, a *Favour* which was never granted to the *Papists* by any *protestant Parliament* whatever since the first *Establishment* of the *Reformation* in *England*. Nor is this *popish Good Nature* peculiar only to the *French Climate*, when so many of the *Principalities* of *Germany*, and of the *Cantons* in *Switzerland*, where *Poper*y is the *Church Establish't*, have from *Age* to *Age* continued the same *Toleration* of the *Reformers* in the publick *Impunity* of their *Persons* and *Estates*, and the *Exercise* of their *Devotion*. Now if *Persecuting* and *enslaving* of *Hereticks*, &c. were so highly meritorious in the *popish Church*, nay, the very *Subtlety* of the *popish Christianity*, as the *Malice* of *popish Characters*, and the *Prejudice* and *Fear* of *English Fools* has represented them, and that the highest of *papal Blessings* and *Seats* in *Heaven* were the promis'd *Reward* of such *Transcendent Merit*; what unpardonable *Apostacy* lies at the *Doors* of almost the whole *Body* of *Papists* through the *World*, and what *Curses* and *Anathemas* must such *willful*, such *unprofitful*, and such *grateless Omission* of a *Duty* so *Obligatory*, the *Remissness* and *Lethargy* of so many *Kingdoms* and *Principalities* from so many *Generations* to *Generations*, deserve.

But alas! as the *Tree is known by the Fruit*; and the *Test* of all *Principles* and *Inclinations* (I mean, under no *Restraint*) are their *Actions*; and as all those *popish Governments* have the *popish Majority* and *Strength* on their side; and thereby are in a *visible Capacity* of *Oppressing* and *Persecuting* their weaker *Heretick Subjects*; therefore this general *Indulgence* and *Mercy* is an *unanswerable Argument*, that under the *POWER* of *Tyranny* and *Cruelty*, they manifestly want the *WILL*. And whilst their *Lenity* and *Clemency* so much exceeds even that of their *Boasting Accusers*, and the *Favourable Concession* of *Romanists* to *Hereticks*, outdoes that of *Hereticks* to *Them*; the *Injustice* of so false an *Attainder*, and so infamous an *Imputation* is sufficiently confuted from such a *Cloud* of numerous *Examples* to the *Contrary*; whilst it does no more follow, that a *popish Successour*, by the *Tenents* of his *Church*, must hold himself oblig'd to be a second *Charles the 9th.* or any thing like him (had he the *Ability* of being so) than that every *popish Priest* must be a *Mariana* or a *Clements*, and every *Papist* a *Rabbiac*.

So that if it be true, as the *Character* affirms, That a *popish Successour* in *England*, that keeps *Faith* with *Hereticks*, and *Rules by Law*, will be the greatest *Laughing-Stock* of the whole *World*, whilst all *Roman Catholick Princes* will deride the *Feebleness* of his *Arm*, and the *Tameness* of his *Spirit* for sparing a *Faggot* in *Smithfield*, &c. 'Tis very strange that those very *Princes* should so loudly exclaim against him for that very *Fault* in which *Themselves* are five hundred times more criminal

than He can be, by reason their greater Romish Transgression (if it be one) is so much more inexcusable, as *THEY* have popish Opportunity, Strength, Power and Dominion to capacitate them for such a Persecution, and the Devil an *ONE* of them has *HE*.

And at the same time (if it be the *Doctrine of Rome*) the Pope himself too, in so extraordinary severe an *Imposition* upon an *English Romanist*, must be prodigiously partial, nay, a worse than *Egyptian Taskmaster*, to lay such Rigorous Injunctions upon so *Impotent* a popish Sovereignty here in England, and yet allow such *profuse Dispensations*, and such *extravagant Latitude* to the more powerful Papists through all the World beside.

Now after this pretended Brittleness of either Promises Obligations or Oaths, let us come to the next dreadful Phenomenon of Tyrant and Barbarian in a Popish Successour. And that is, that his Zeal for his Church will supersede all the Dictates of Honour and Glory whatever, and nothing so horrid or villanous that a Papist, though never so great, either Prince or Potentate will stand out at, when for the Advancement of popery.

The Intended Proof of this Assertion is the very *Master-stroke* of the whole Character, Viz. *Verbiism*, as follows.

The Glory of a Papist! A pretty airy Notion! How shall we ever expect that Glory shall steer the Actions of a popish Successour, when there is not that Thing so Abject, that he shall refuse to do; or that Shape or Hypocrisy so scandalous he shall not assume, when Rome, or Rome's Interest shall command; nay, when his own peevish Stubborness shall but sway him: As for Example; For one fit he shall come to the protestant Church, and be a Member of their Communion, notwithstanding at the same time his Face belyes his Heart, and his Soul is a Romanist: Nay, he shall vary his Disguises as often as an Algerine his Colours, and change his Flag to conceal the Pyrate. As for Instance; another fit, for whole years together, he shall come neither to one Church nor to other, and participate of neither Communion; till ignobly he plays the Unprincipally, nay, Unmanly Hypocrite so long, that he shelters himself under the Face of an Atheist to shrowd a Papist. A Vizard more fit for a Banditto than a Prince. And this methinks is so wretched and so despicable a Disguise, that it looks like being ashamed of his GOD.

Now to the Eternal Shame of the Contagious Air of 79, and the most Flagitious Depravity of that Infamous Season; as nothing but the most unpardonable Hellish encouraged and animated by the Licentiousness of those Libertine Days could have produced so exquisite a Mass of Rancour; so the Reader is to observe that it was exactly Calculated for that very Age 'twas written in, an Age when all Venome and no Reason was in Mode. For first, next to the old High Court of Justice, here's the most Impudent Tribunal set up, and a Prince most audaciously Arraign'd, and Sentenced for a Downright papist in his Heart at the same hour he's a Member of the protestant Communion, an Accusation beyond the possibility of humane power or Knowledge to make proof of, and of which only God, that knows the Secrets of Hearts could be Judge. I remember I read of a Tyrant that hang'd a Fellow for a Sower Look, as a certain Conviction of a False Heart. But the Character goes a Bows Shoot beyond him, and pretends to Impeach Thoughts, and Adjudge Souls. And though neither the highest Scrutiny of Law, or Inquest of humane Reason can inspect any further than into Visible Conformity and Ocular Demonstration: No matter for that, the popish Character can Out-fadom all Laws, and out-see all Reason, to find the vilest of Dirt to throw in the Face of Princes.

The second Inglorious and Monstrous Blot in the Princely Scutcheon, as the Character designs him, is the Being a Papist, and yet not daring to go to the popish Communion. Which by the way, is all Supposition still, and no Proof. However, granting the Supposition, that he is one, does not the Express Law of the Land say, That no papist, at least, no Native popish Subject of England, though never so Princely Born, shall go to the popish Communion. Yet nevertheless, here's a Prince most arrogantly asperst and vilified in the most barbarous Terms of Unprincipally, Unmanly Hypocrite, Pyrate, Banditto, &c. and all this for obeying the very Laws of the Land, and consequently, for performing the Duty of a Subject and a Christian: Nay, and in the Character way of Demonstration, he does an Act that looks like no less than being ashamed of his God, in submitting to the Government, and thereby obeying the very Ordinance of God. If this be not a Master-stroke, as I told you, I know not what is.

But truly to be plain with this single Paragraph in the popish Character (no disparagement to the rest of that Libel) no Impartial Reader but would swear the Devil himself could not have crowded more Spight and Virulence, and less Sense into fewer Words; and yet to shew the misery of the time 'twas writ in; I was so far from an Original in that almost universal Spirit of Bitterness that then Reigned, that the Reader can't forget (as indeed the whole Nation has but too much Cause to remember) that if he at that time walked but Westminster or Oxfordwards, he might have seen five hundred Men together, much my Betters, that talk't, and what's worse, acted as bad as I writ, and truly with as much, or more Gall, and full as little Reason.

Having thus fairly stated our Case, and proved the Imbecility of our Fears, and the Invalidity of the Arguments used for the Danger of Popery in England this Rougher way, through Perjury, Barbarity, &c. I shall come to the second Head of my Discourse, and enquire what Danger there is of its Introduction by Persuasion and Rhetorick, and all the gentlest Meanes of a National Conversion.

Now

Now I confess, the pardoning of an Offender lyes in the Prerogative of the Crown, and the punishing, or not punishing of popish Priests, or any other Romish Emisaries, is wholly in the Breast of the Prince. And upon the Admission of a popish Sovereign to the Throne, 'tis presumed, that the Numbers of popish Visitants from Foreign Seminaries, will not only Encrease, but likewise act less Clandestinely than formerly under the Confidence of Commivance at least, from a Prince of their own Perswasion, and a Relaxation of all the penal Statutes against Popery.

The Eminent Danger of Popery from this Inlet, raises no little Dust in the Character; and as if the whole Defence of our Protestant Religion was secured by no other Barriere than by keeping out popish Emisaries at Swords point, and hanging and Quartering of Priests and Jesuits, and the severest Execution of the Statutes of Recusancy; which by the old Figure *Petitio principii* taken for granted, the Character most furiously lays about, to prove the Moral impossibility of such a barbarous unnatural popish Successour that shall hang and quarter those very Men that from the bottom of his heart he believes, are the undoubted Disciples of Heaven, and Pillars of Christianity, &c. And if he doth not do all this, the Protestant Religion is upon it last Leggs, and our whole Church under a manifest prospect of being undermined and blown up.

Though by the by, here's another piece of Richard and Baxterisme in the Case: For if popery shall make its Entrance, and sweep all before it this way, and by meer dint of Logick or Sophistry shall pervert the Church of England, what need was there of all the aforesaid Broyling, Roasting and Cuckooing, &c. to do the Job.

However, as this very Indulgence and Remission of the penal Laws is no more than what has been granted by the Clemency of the Crown even for Ages together, and all without one popular Murmur, or the least Blot in the Royal Arms; the next Question is, what necessity of Shackling the Prerogative, and tying up a popish Successour to harder Meat than all his protestant Predecessours; or what more mortal Crime is that Indulgence in a Papist than in all the protestant Crown'd Heads before him.

Oh yes, infinitely more they'll tell you: for the Case is different, the popish Hopes will be more Lively, their Courage more daring, and Themselves by their popish Prince, more publicly and more solemnly embraced and countenanced; so that the Inconveniences attending us from these more propitious Royal Smiles to the protest Enemies and Supplanters of our Religion, will, God knows, have those Victorious Effects, which all the feebler popish Efforts before could never obtain.

Well, imagine all this extraordinary Benigne Aspect towards popery, and for once, let us put the Case the worst that can be. Let us suppose all the Indulgence or Incouragement to Popery from a popish Successour, that the highest stretch of the Prerogative can give it. Nay, let us suppose a popish Chappel in every Hamlet, and Mass sung in every Parish in England, and to officiate in this Work, the whole Tribe of St. Omers, Doway, and all the rest of the English Seminaries abroad, transplanted hither, to perform the Mighty Operation. What would all this do to bring in Popery? Nay, let the whole Colledge of Cardinals come over with them too, they would be almost as inoffensive to the protestant Religion as the Jewish Synagogue, and altogether as unable to make a National Conversion to Papisme, as the other to Judaism.

For Instance, who are they, that these numerous popish Missionaries shall convert? The Understanding part of the Nation, Men of Reason and Learning? Not at all. For let the popish Numbers increase as they please, the popish Arguments are but the same, whether defended by ten, or ten hundred Romanists. And therefore they that have their Principles of Faith, and the Grounds of their Religion Rooted and Confirmed by sound and well pondered Judgment and Mature Consideration, will no more be shaken by all the popish Numbers they can send over, than all the popish Volumes they have written. Besides, what greater Assault can be put upon our Religion it self, than to imagine it so weakly supported, as to be so much as capable of being thus overthrown.

Who then shall they Convert? the Ignorant Multitude. No, Them less than the other. For as the others have Sense to defend themselves, They have that which is as strong, or stronger, and more Invincible, viz. Deafness, Prejudice and Resolution. For let any man seriously consider the Genius of the People of England in that point, and but fancy a Jesuit, a Priest or any other popish Emisary, tampering with the poorest high-shoo'd, thick skull'd Clown, to possess him with a Faith in Transubstantiation, Purgatory, Saint-praying, the Pope's Infallibility, or any other of the Terrible Romish Principles, and instead of making him a Proselyte, upon the least Breath of that sort of Ayr, he should be so far from hearkening or listening so much as to the Means of a popish Conversion, so far from attending even to the Eloquence of Angels upon that Subject, that he should sooner look downwards for the Cloven-foot of the Seducer that utters it. For certainly those very people that have always been so Mazed and Night-mazed with popery, that they have scarce seen any thing else but popish Specters and Goblins even at the very shadow of it, will fancy nothing less than Belzebub and Lucifers at the real Appearance of it.

The Reduction indeed of England to the Romish Religion is a thing as easily SAY'D, either in an Amsterdam Coffee-House, a popish Courant, or an Oxford House of Commons, as a Taste out of the Seven Champions; and truly with as much Credibility: But alas! when it comes to the DOING once, the Papists will find that the whole Body of the people of England, even to a Nominat Contradicente (at least, not one in a hundred excepted) if without any other Defence of their Belief, are still those Opinators in Religion, that maugre the general Ignorance of the Multitude, or the great Learning or Rhetorick of the Jesuites, they'd be no sooner perswaded to quit their plain English Bibles, nay, not so much as poor Sternhold and Hopkins, to listen to an unintelligible Latine

Mass, or joyn in an *Ora pro nobis sancte Pauli, sancte Petre, sancte Loyola*, and the rest of the Fraternity of Major, or Minor Saints, then they'd kneel to the *Talmude* or the *Alcoran*, nor be no more perswaded into the possibility of a *Waser's Transubstantiation* into a *Dutty*, than of a *Cartwheel* into a *Star*: and without these and the rest of the Romish *Fundamentals*, where's the *Restoration* of the *Romish Faith*, or the *Progress* of a *Popish Propagation* in England.

But to confirm this certain *Truth* from a more substantial *Authority* than my own. 'Tis the very Opinion of the Reverend Dr. *Burnet* himself, a person, let me tell you, under no small *Pains-taking* for the protestant Religion, and as a Churchman, under no common Consternation from popish *Dangers*, and therefore not at all likely to lull us into a false *Security* of our Religion. The Instance of which Opinion I find in the 9th. page of his Preface to the *Rights of Princes*, as follows;

'Tis the Maxime of the Popes, not to reform Abuses in their Church, for if some *Corruptions* were once acknowledged, and amended, that would give credit to the Complaints which the *Hetericks* made, and be a publick *Confession*, that the Church had *Erred*, and would set on foot a humour of making *Changes*, which could not be easily limited or managed. These Politicks prevailed at *Rome*, so that instead of removing Abuses, all were justified and maintained, and yet humanely speaking, it is not to be imagin'd but that if some more palpable Abuses in the Worship, such as the scandalous Use of *Images*, the denying the *Chalice*, and saying the Office in an *Unknown Tongue*, had been corrected, the Reformation could not have made so great a Progress as it did. Wise Men are unwilling to make great Changes, and the *Rabble* are wrought on, not so much by *Speculations*, and subtle and learned Arguments, as by *prejudices* to some publick Abuses, of which they are ALL sensible; and while these are continued, 'twill be easie to heighten their Dislike of them, and to lead them almost into any Opinions, to which the hatred they bear to the Abuses may any way dispose them. And the defending or maintaining of Abuses, which cannot be defended, endangers the whole Cause in the Opinion of those who judge of Parties in *Gross*, and not by the Retail of particular Arguments.

So that to summe up the Matter: Here's the whole Cause of *Rome* in a manner wholly lost by the *Gross Abuses* in that Communion. And what between the *Invincible Obstinacy* of the Romanists on one side, never to recede from those Abuses; and the *Rabble's* unanimous *Disgust* against them on the other, as being apparent even to all *Capacities*; here's the greatest progress of the Reformation, flowing from almost no other Channel; and by consequence, if the *Original Prejudice* against those Abuses, could open so broad a Gate to the protestant Religion, the present more irreconcilable Antipathy against *Rome*, heightned by so many successive popular *Inflammations*, will make the *Resumption* of that popish *Uomist* so more universally *nauseous*, that it will undoubtedly much more contribute to the Confirmation of the Protestant Religion, than ever it did to the Introduction of it.

For let but any reasonable Man consider, that during so many Ages of Impunity to the Papists from the long Mercy of the late Kings of England, when *Recusancy* went unmolested and unregarded, and neither *Papist*, nor *popish priest*, either punished, or examined: excepting some few Families, that bred up their Children in their own Perswasion, what Conversions have the *popish party*, and all the *Romish Missionaries* made in England for half a hundred years last past? So far from any Increase, that on the contrary, they have from Generation to Generation apparently dwindled less and less till they are now scarce a handful in consideration of all England. And if *Popery* and *Jesuitisme*, with all their Learning and Insinuations under such *Royal Indulgence* have made such feeble progress in the Conversion of England, that they have daily lost ground, not gain'd it; shall the yet larger Indulgence of a *popish Successour*, with the permission of their *popish Priests* barefaced, the multiplying of their Numbers, or the Influence of *Regis ad Exemplum* do the Work? The quite contrary. For suppose the *popish Priests* a hundred times more numerous, and a hundred times bolder than now, yet as the *popish Seducers* are increased, so likewise under the dismal Apprehension of a visible *popish Successour* the popular Aversion will so much more increase too, and thereby become the more impregnable, whilst the Universality of their Fear and Hate will make them so much the more Fortified against the utmost Assault. Besides, if the *Jesuites* have made so little Advances of Popery formerly in England, that (granting it true that's said of them) they have been put to the poor shifts of herding with *Fanaticks*, and disguising into *Conventicle Preachers*; what Encouragements (Oh wonderful!) are they like to meet, when they throw off the *Vizor*, and walk by day, in the open Propagation of a Religion so universally loathed, that it wants the subtlest of Artifices and Disguises to obtrude even the least Tenet of it into the World; at least, our Part of the World.

But surely nothing in nature can be a more ridiculous Supposition at this time of day, as that the Example or Favour of a King in Case of Popery, shall contribute towards the People's Embracing it, when undeniable Experience tells us, that the very Aspersions of but popishly affected, has lost our Kings so many Hearts, nay One of Them (with horrore be it spoken) his very Crown and Head. By consequence, how many more Hearts shall Popery in earnest loose a true Popish King? and what little hope of gaining *Proselytes* or *Friends* to a real Romanist, when the meer Imagination has rays'd such contagious Desertions and Enmity even to the best of Protestant Crown'd Heads. And therefore how wretched a piece of Sophistry must that be that Imposes on the unreasoning World so impudent a piece of Falshood, *Viz.* That Popery and a Popish Successour will find such favourable

favourable Stars in England, when on the contrary, the bare *Notion* of Popery and *popish Councils* have been attended with such *Fatality*.

However, to answer a little nearer yet to the Danger of Popery's coming in through the *Remissness* and *Neglect* of executing the Laws against it, and the *Indulgence* and *Incouragement* of the Prince to promote it, I have only this Request to make to thee, thou poor *frighted, half-witted Creature*, that fearest all this Danger (for nothing of sense can fear it) to lay thy hand upon thy Heart, and answer me this Question: Amongst those *Proselites* that the aforesaid *Toleration* and *Encouragement* of the *popish Successour*, and the *Witchcraft* of the Pope and *Jesuits* are like to make, Art thou thy self one of the number that is in that danger of turning *Papist*? Now to answer for thee in thy own Dialect, *No!* God forbid, thou'lt say; what, shall I turn to a Religion that has nothing in it but *Superstition* and *Idolatry*? a Religion worse than *Paganisme* and *Judaisme*, a Religion that consecrates *Daggers*, and canonizes *Murderers*, that makes nothing but *stabbing of Kings*, & *Massacring whole Nations* the only meritorious Act of *Christianity*; and do you think that either the *Insinuations* of Priests, or the *Flattery* of Kings themselves, or any *Earthly Reward* shall make me turn such an *Apostate* from *Truth*, as to *damne* my Soul and *renounce* my God: no, I have more Assurance in his good *Grace* than to imagine he'll abandon me to such a *Thought*: no, no, my Fear is not for my self. But alas! though I shall never turn *Papist*, too many others will; and when these *Jesuits*, *Priests*, and *Willains* have perverted the greatest part of the Nation to their *Idolatry*, and thereby come to be able to set up the *Romish Religion*, with all the old *Fire* and *Faggots* that belongs to it, then shall such *honest Protestants* as my self be burnt at a Stake, for not turning *Devil* too for *Company* with them. And what a miserable Condition will the poor *Protestants* be in in that dreadful day.

Why thou fool, canst thou thus make this *confident* & *Resolute* Answer for thy self, and art thou so secure for thy own part, and only *suspectest* the Danger of a *popish Conversion* from the *weakness* of thy Neighbour. If that be all, trouble not thy self, nor distract thy little Brains for nothing, but for thy Comfort, examine thy Neighbours Hearts as thou hast done thy own, and of ever hundred amongst them thou wilt find almost every where at least *ninety nine* of them that have the same dreadful Opinion of Popery as thou hast, and as utter an *Abomination* of it as thy self, with the same *Confident Assurance* of themselves too; nay, and that have only thy very *Reasons* of fearing it. How ridiculous therefore must thy Fear be, when if thou art secure, they are so too! And if so, where then are the *Infinite Numbers* of those *Weak Brothers* that the Pope's *Emissaries* shall subdue, and that *Majority* of a *perverted Nation* that shall Establish and set up this *Beluchadnezzar's Image*, and doom thee to *Fiery Furnaces* for not kneeling with them to Worship it.

If the Dint of *Perswasion* and *Indulgence* then be all the Introduction of Popery, and this the highest Flight of a *popish Successour* (as indeed it is) all our *Dangers* are quite *vanisht*, and the more the Nation *abhors* Popery, the less Cause it has to fear it, whilst the *Universality* of the *Detestation* is the certain *Security* of keeping it out; and none but *Fools* or *Madmen* can be frightened by the *Apprehensions* of it that way. For the *Blacker* the *Feind*, the less power he has over us, and they that are above *Temptation* need not fear the *Devil* himself.

But beyond all these various Pretences for Popery's coming in, there's one more general Argument almost in all *Mouths*, which we find daily urged, and that bears no little sway in *Vulgar Apprehensions*, *Viz.*

Why is it impossible that Popery should come in again, and that too, by *Law Establish't*? Experience plainly tells us, that *Henry the Eighth* lay'd the *Foundation* of the *Protestant Religion*, nay, and by a *popish Parliament* too. For by a *Romish Parliament* was the Pope's *Supremacy* destroyed, by a *Romish Parliament* the *Monastery's* and *Abbey-Lands* confiscated, and that very Monarch, after the Continuation of Popery by a *Reign* of more than half a thousand years, in the very *Infancy* too of the *Protestant Religion*, when possibly the *Protestants* then in England, were a less handful than are the *Papists* in England now. This very King I say, with so small a Party of *Protestants*, could nevertheless lay the very *Corner Stone*, that the whole *Reformation* was afterwards built upon, and that too by *Act of Parliament*. And why on the other side, shall it be so impossible for a *popish Prince*, with *Henry the Eighth's Courage* and *Conduct* withal, after not a hundred and fifty years *Reign* of the *protestant Religion*, to be likewise able to do the same Favour for Popery, and lay the very *Basis* of it even by *Parliaments* and *Law*. And a *protestant Parliament* now, as a *popish one* then be so *managed* or *Influenced*, as to give a main Lift to the Work.

Besides, why should the *Change* of the Religion be so *wondrous* or *difficult* a *Deed* under a *popish Monarch* now, when upon every *Change* of the Prince's Faith since the Conquest, the *Establish't Religion* of the Kingdom has been changed with it. For Instance, after *Henry's* good Stroke towards it, Did not an *Infant Prince*, *Edward the Sixth*, in poor seven years time Establish the *protestant Religion* by Law? And did not *Mary* his *popish Successour* subvert it again by Law, and by Law restore the very Pope's *Supremacy*? And lastly, Did not the *protestant Queen Elizabeth* after her, trample both Pope and Popery under Feet, and confirm that very *Protestant Religion* that *Reigns* at this Day. And why shall a *Popish Successour* now, with as much *Zeal* and *Industry* as his *Predecessours* miscarry in that very work in which not one of them fail'd before him.

There is nothing that possibly passes for a more *Authentick Confirmation* of all our *popish Dangers* than this *One Assertion* so universally received for *Current Sterling*, by being only taken as a *Lump* upon *Trust* unweighed and unexamined. But when considerately and thoroughly inspected, all rational

Men must blush to be deceived by so light and so drossy a Popular Tradition.

For to begin with *Henry the Eighth*. In the first place, here neither is, nor can be the least *Motive* for the present Protestant People, or their *Representatives* to make the least Change whatever in the present Church of England, in any kind answerable to the several *Inducements* that wrought those Changes in *Henry the Eighth's* Time.

For first, as no small *Encouragement* for the Reformation, the People had then contracted a general and just *Odium* of the whole Clergy, strangely occasion'd by the Murder of *Hunn*, a Merchant of London in Prison. This *Hunn* being sued in the *Legates Court* for Non-payment of a *Mortuary* to his Parish-Priest; in return, sued the Parish Priest in the *Temporal Court* for a *Premunire*, for bringing the King's Subjects before a *Foreign and Illegal Court*. This incensed the Clergy so much, that they threw him into Prison for *Heresy*; where having several Articles exhibited against him, upon Confession of part of them, and begging Mercy, he was only enjoin'd *Penance*. But not being prevail'd upon to let fall his *Suite* in the *Temporal Court*, the Bishop's *Chancellor*, a Doctor, and other of his Officers inhumanely murdered him in Prison, by breaking his Neck with an *Iron Chain*, and other Wounds given him upon the Belly; and then hanged him up in his own *Girdle* to possess the World that he hanged himself. And what was yet worse, upon a full Detection of the Truth of this Murder, the Bishops of *Durham* and *Lincoln*, to palliate the Guilt, proceeded to charge him with new *Heresies* after Death, and having found a *Wickliff's Bible* in his House, they condemn'd him as an *Heretic*, and burnt his Body. All which Proceedings being now looked upon as the Act of the whole Clergy, they lost the Affections of the People to that degree that they could never recover them; and nothing more disposed the People to the embracing of the *New Preachers* than the *Re-sentment* of so infamous a Murder, committed and patronized by the whole Clergy.

[Hist. of Ref. pag. 14, and 15.]

And then for the Changes made in Parliament. The Suppression of *Monasteries*, one of their Acts, was no more than what was design'd, and begun in some Measure by Cardinal *Woolsey*, and the Pope himself, and that long before the Breach betwixt the King and Him, who granted a *Bull* to destroy several of them, to convert into *Bishopricks*; [Ref. pag. 22.] the scandalous and lewd Lives of too many of the *Monks* and *Friars* being obnoxious even to Rome it self. Though 'tis true, the King and Parliament proceeded to a total Suppression of them afterwards for the same Intent of erecting new *Episcopal Sees*; though indeed the vast profits arising from their Sale, through the *Extravagant Profuseness* of *Henry the Eighth*, were not wholly converted to that Use; notwithstanding, part of his Promise was performed, *Viz.* In his constituting six new *Bishopricks*, and making Allowance for fourteen *Deanaries* and *Prebendarships* to fourteen Bishop's Sees.

But to gain the Parliament to the King's Party in the Destruction of *Monasteries*, there was that which governs the World, Interest in the Case; which was no small Wheel in the Machine. For the King selling of the Lands at easie Rates to the Nobility and Gentry; by this Policy the Parliament Members, as Purchasers, by the Temptation of such good penny-worths, were engaged to assist the King in the Maintenance of the Changes made. [Ref. pag. 223.]

And for another part of *Henry the 8th's* Reformation, *Viz.* The censuring and condemning of *Bulls*, *Indulgences*, *Shrines*, *Pilgrimages*, and *Relicks*, with the pulling down of *Images*; the scandalous Impositions of several of them by the fraud of the Priests, being publicly discovered, [Ref. p. 242.] created no little aversion in the People. But besides all that, here could never be a more pleasing Change to them than so beneficial a part of Reformation, *Viz.* The freeing them from all those Ecclesiastick *Romish Dreins*, that had so long swallow'd almost half the Wealth of the Kingdom, in which too many of them had been too great Sufferers, not only through their own, but also the deluded Superstition of their Bigotted Ancestors, and by which no less than whole Families had been Impoverish'd and Undone, through the pious Frauds and continual Suckings of those Church *Hoseliches*.

And lastly, for the Exclusion of the Papal Supremacy, the above cited penalty of *Premunire* incurred both by the whole Clergy and Layty of England in submitting to the Pope's *Legantine* Power, contrary to Law, as against the Act of *Provisors*, contributed no little matter both to the Clergy and Commons Submission to the King in the point of that Supremacy. Besides, to facilitate the Assumption of it, it was plainly proved by that *Provisor* Act, and other Substantial Records, that the Pope's Encroachments in England were but *Usurpation*, and the Supremacy in reality *ab origine & de jure* inherent in the Crown; and therefore the Resumption of it by the King, no more than a Challenge and Reprizal of his own Inhabited *Prerogative*.

As these were all the Changes made by *Henry the Eighth*, the Popish Religion being so far from abolish'd by him, that he rather strook at the Court than Church of Rome; witness the Act of the six Articles made by him, defending the greatest and principlest Tenets of Rome, by no less than Capital Punishments, and a Parliamentary Reinforcement of the old Statute de *Hereticis comburendis*; [Ref. pag. 147.] the *Heretick Burning* continuing through his whole Reign. As these I say, were all the Changes made by *Henry the Eighth*, instrumental to the present Reformation, and that too, not without Obstructions, witness several *Rebellions* occasioned by this Change; the one of 20000 Strong in *Lincolnshire*; another more formidable one in *Yorkshire*, called by the Rebels, *The Pilgrimage of Grace*, attended with a general Insurrection in all the North. However, as I said before, here is no *Motive* or *Inducement* now for the like Parliamentary Compliance with a Popish Successor, to make any, the least Change Instrumental to the *Romish Restoration*.

For

For first, supposing (how notoriously false soever) an equal *Movability* or *Disposition* in the People now, to return to *Rome*, as then to depart from it: Here's no *Stigmatizing Brand* of *Shutt*, or any other publick *Perpetration* or *Avowing* of any *Willany* whatever to taint the whole *Protestant Clergy*, and thereby withdraw the People's Hearts from them.

Here's no *Holy-Cheats* and *Superstitious* *Popish* *Impositions* practis'd to drain the People's Purses to gratifie a scandalous, voracious *Clergy*. Or any detected *Abuses* and *Corruptions* to disgust and asperate the People against them.

Here's no least *Dormient Statute* or *Title* whatever, for a *Popish* Successour to lay hold of, in favour of the *Papacy's* Return into *England*, as there was for its *Expulsion*. The Fence of our present *Protestant Constitution* being so strong against it, and all Pretensions of *Rome* so utterly extinct and abolished. Neither is here any *Premunire* incutted by the whole *Clergy* and *Nation* to affright, or deterdize them into any sordid *Condescension* or *Grants* in *Diskindness* to our *Religion*.

And lastly, here's no *Fleeing* of an *Overgrown*, *Overrich* Church in the Case. (The present *Church Revenues* under so many *Impropriations*, being no more than will but just support its *Dignity* and *Pastors* but with *Subsistence* and *Decency*.) No *Ecclesiastick Booty* nor *Prize* to bribe or allure an *Avaricious* Parliament to weaken or impoverish their Church for the temptation of sharing the *Spoil*.

But above all other *Obstacles* against *Rome*, her's an *Absolute Impoliticallity* of a *Temporizing* *Clergy* to favour *Papery*. For supposing even the most barbarous *Insinuation* of their *Fanatical Enemies*, *True*; and that *Whimmon*, *Interest*, *Hyocphantry*, (how *uselessly* soever that *Infamous Suggestion*) were above *Religion* with them. Yet nevertheless the *inmost Influence* of a *Romish* Prince could never warp them to any such *Execrable Apostacy*; by reason the *Indispensable Coellibacy* of the *Romish Clergy* would totally exclude the present *Members* of the *Church of England*, as being *Marry'd Men*, from any *Share* or *Hopes* under a *Romish* Government, whilst instead of *Preferment* or *Interest*, nothing but *Degradation* and *Beggery* could attend them.

And for an *unanswerable Disparity* between *Henry the Eighth's* Influence towards the present *Protestant Religion*, and a *Popish* Successour's towards *Papery*. The *Protestant Religion* with an inviting *Face* was in a State of *Innocence*, untainted by any of its *Corrupted Professours* with any thing like *Parisian Massacres*, *Irish Rebellions*, or *Gun-powder Treasons*; enough of themselves alone to open that *uncloseable Chasm*, that never to be cemented *Breach* between *Englishmen* and *Papery*; that *Papery* could not now gain three *Profelites* to a *hundred* gain'd in *Henry the Eighth's* Time to the *Protestant Religion*.

But here I cannot but take notice of one *Gross Mistake*, that's commonly receiv'd for *Truth*, *Viz.* That *Henry the Eighth* betor'd his *Parliaments* to what he list'd. Which is oftentimes made use of as an *Argument*, that a *Popish* Successour, with the *same* *Courage* may do the like with his; when on the contrary, they acted only by their own *Insinuations*; and when any thing was proposed by the King that went against the *Grain*; not all his *Menaces* could force them to a *Submission*. For Example, when a Bill had past the *House of Lords* for regulating a common Practice then in *England*, of defrauding the King and several of the *Lords* of their *Advantages* made by *Wards*, *Marriages*, and *Primier Seisin*, by *Men's* making such *Settlements* of their *Estates* by their last *Wills*, and other *Deeds* to that purpose. Yet notwithstanding the *inmost* pressure both of the *King* and *Lords* for redressing that *Abuse*, the *Commons* reject'd the Bill [Ref. pag. 116.] And as to the *Reformation* on, some part of it was of their own seeking. For Example, in his 22d. Year, the *Commons* complained to the King of the grievous and intolerable *Severity* of the *Ecclesiasticks*, for calling *Men* before them *ex Officio*, and laying *Articles* to their Charge without any *Accuser*, and then admitting no *Purgation*, but causing the Party accused either to *abjure* or *burn*. Reform'd. Pag. 116. And indeed in all the *Reformation* they rather drew with him, than were driven by him.

And to shew the vast *Difference* betwixt the *Operation* of the Prince, either by *Edward* or *Mary* towards the *Change* of the *Religion*, and the working of a *Change* now.

In the first place, besides the daily *Converts* made to the *Protestant Religion* in *Edward's* Reign, which added *Strength* and *Vigour* to the *Reformation* wrought by that Prince, as the State of *Religion* then stood the *Popish* and *Protestant* Party were grown in a manner to be an *Equal Division* of the *Nation*, and 'tis not to be wonder'd, that where the *Weights* even, the *Sovereign Power* added to the *Ballance*, could turn the *Scale*; as both in his and his *Sister's* Reign. Either Party having an *Easie Game* to play, whilst the *Respective Monarch* might with small *Difficulty* turn up his own *Religion*. Trump, when he had half the *Cards* in his hands.

Besides, the *Law* had then so weakly provided for the true *Settlement* of either *Religion*, that the greatest part of the *Ecclesiastick* *Changes* then, lay almost wholly in the pleasure of the Prince: For after the *Parliament* had fully invited *Henry the Eighth* with the *Supremacy*, they impow'ed him as *Head of the Church*, to dispose of all *Episcopal Sees* by *Letters Patents* during *Placure*. (Abrid. Ref. Book 2. pag. 4.) and the *Bishops* by the *same* *Authority* had the like *Jurisdiction* over the *Inferiour Clergy*.

This *unbounded Latitude* of the *Supremacy* continuing through both the next *Reigns*, a great part of the *Changes* was owing wholly to this *Prerogative*; whilst King *Edward* made choice of a *Clergy* of his own *Perswasions*; and in like manner *Queen Mary* plac'd or displac'd her *Bishops*, and remov'd all the *Inferiour Clergy ad Libitum*, turning out whom she pleas'd, without any *Form* of *Process*, or special *Master* objected against them. All which (Abridg. B. 2. pag. 249.) was done by vir-

toe of the *Queens* being *Head of the Church*; which though she condemned as a *sinful and sacrilegious Power*, yet she now employ'd it against those *Bishops*, whose *Sees* were quickly filled with *Adees* for *her Purposes*.

So that nothing could make a greater *Turn of Church Affairs* in the Kingdom in those Days, when under such a *Total Alteration* of the *Clergy*, and all ready at hand to step into their *Seats*, the whole *Interest* of the *Adverse Religion* through the forementioned *Equality* of Parties could not but be extremely shaken, and the *Prevalence* in *Parliament* be highly mov'd by no other *Spring*. Besides, the *Act De Hereticis comburendis* was then *unholily*, and as the *Determination* of *Heresy* lay in the *Breast* of the *Clergy*, here was an *easy leap* into all the foregoing *Severities* of *Rome* even by the *Law* it self. Inasmuch that either of the *Religions* could not properly be call'd by *Law* *Establish'd*, whilst our *Pastors* and our *Fold* were in a manner at the *Will* of the *Sovereign*; and there wanted but little more than the *Royal Breath* to drive us to the *Right* or the *Left*, the *Sheep* or the *Goats*.

But all this is so prodigiously remote from the *present State* of *England*, and the *Religion* now *Establish'd*, that *Light* and *Darkness* can be scarce more *dissimant*. For besides the infinite *Disproportion* of the *Popish Numbers* in *Queen Mary's* *Reign*, to *Ours*, enough of it self to silence all *Dispute*; a *popish Successors* *Removal* of the *present Protestant Clergy*, and the *Introduction* of *Priests* and *Jesuits* in their *Room*, as *Head of the Church*, is no more in his *Prerogative* than the *Government* of *Transylvania*: The *present Bishops* and *Clergy* holding for *Life*, and only to be *displaced* or *silenced* upon *Crimes* or *Insufficiencies* adjudg'd or *condemned* by the *Protestant Censure* and *Sentence*. And all the *popish Clergy* so *incapable* of their *Places*, that they are *Aliens* to the *Nation*, under an *accusation* of *Treason* upon the very *Assumption* of their *Sacerdotal Orders*; and so shut out from our *Church-Ministry* by *Parliamentary Oaths*, *Tests*, and *Abjurations*, that nothing but the most *Diabolical* *Papal Dispensation*, and a *Conscience*, even *Brimstone Proof* could introduce them, were there really *Room* for their *Admission*.

But alas! considering in what *Equilibrium* *Religion* then hung, whatever *Concurrence* the *Prince* could then obtain from his *People* in *Parliament* in favour of his *own Persuasion*. The *Genius* of *England* is now quite another thing. All our *Parliaments* for almost a hundred years last past, have been so far from granting even the *least Concession* to the *Crown* in favour of *popery*, that on the contrary, all their *Study*, *Votings*, *Labours*, and *Endeavours* even to a *Nemine Contradicente*, have been level'd at the very *Root* of it; so far from countenancing of it, that the very *sound* of it has made them fly out into the most *rapid Torrent* of *Contrabitation* even beyond the *Duty* of *Subjects*, and instead of *Complimenting* either *Pope* or *Popery*, they have tyed up their very *Hands* even from the best of *Protestant Crown'd Heads*, and in their *highest Extremities* deny'd them their most *reasonable Demands* in the most pressing *Necessities* of the *Crown*, and all for the *Apprehension* of *popish Designs*, and for keeping the *least String* of their *Purses* from *popish Fingers*.

I need not instance what *Load* of *Miseries* attended the late *Royal Martyr* from this *Fatal Original*. Neither do I urge this in *Relation* to those detestable *Regicides*, the corrupted *Limbs* of that *Cre- trable Senate*, that under the *Vizor* of *Religion*, were plotting the most *Infernal* of *Mischief*s; and so from the false *Alarm* of *popery*, deny'd their *Sovereign* All *Things* only to make him *Nothing*. No, as *All Men* are not *Monsters*, and even in that *Accursed Parliament* there were some *honest Men*; yet those very *honest Men*, those that by the *universal Delusion* were *enchanted* into *False Fears*, and so design'd nothing but *Truly* the *Prevention* of *popery*, were yet under that *Terrour*, so *Jealous* of their *Prince*, so *Deaf* to his *Interest*, and so *inexorable* even to his most *Crying* *Want*s, and all for battring these fancy'd *Army Castles*, that in the *vehemence* of their *Zeal* they contributed to the very *Designs* of his *Murderers*; and how *ignorantly* so ever, heap'd together the very *Coals* to the *universal Conflagration*; so far too, that they had only *Time* to detect the *Infernal Imposture*, and deplore the dire *Effects* of their *miserable Mistake* too late.

Besides, to come a little nearer home, What *dismal Consequences* were the late *Malignant Con- junction* of *Fears* and *Jealousies* in the same *Fiery Trigon* producing again? What *Wm. Hobbs* and *Patton* *Saviours* did the whole *Vox populi*, nay, the very *sensible Men* of the *Nation* make of those very *Farless*, which now their *Opened Eyes* and *waken'd Senses* (I appeal to their own *Consciences*) tell them are those *flagitious*, *unparalleled Villains*, that would shame a *Gibbet*.

And yet the very *Loyallest* of all our late *Members* of *Parliament*, for they were not all *Shaftsbury*s nor all *Sidneys*; neither such that were for *Associating* to *Kill Kings*, to *tap out Popes*, nor *answering* of *Films* out of *Buchanan's* and *Miltons*, nor *seating* the *Good Old Cause* at the *Right Hand* of *G. B. D.* Not those that made *popery* the *pretext* alone to manage their own *Hellish Republick* *Ad- chinations*. But only those that (alas, and well a day!) had been *Benk-Blam'd* a little out of their right *Wits* by the *aforsaid Nation-Saviours*, and so were for *combating* of *Popery*, possibly for the *Real Preservation* of the *King* and *Kingdom*. Yet the very *Loyallest* of these *Men*, I say, were wrapt up to that *height* of *perverse*ness, that to use the gentlest *Terms* I can find, they thought they could never do little enough even for that *very King* attested by their own *unanimous* *reiterat- ed* *Acknowledgments* to be the very *Christus* that kept *P. O. P. E. R. Y.* from *Surround- ing* Us; and on whose *Only Thread* of *Life* the whole *F. A. T. E.* of the *Protestant Reli- gion* depended.

I shall not trouble my self with the Repeating the Diversity of *Statutes* recited in the *Character*, in Instance the various *Handing* of the Succession of the Crown in *Henry the Eighth's* Reign, designed there as an Argument of Justice for a Parliamentary Bill of Exclusion against a *Papish Heir*. For whatever different Settlements of the Descent of the Crown that King and his Parliaments were pleased to make, occasioned by the Intricacy of his Daughter's Titles, grounded upon that long controverted Point, the Divorce of Queen *Katherine*, the Mother of Queen *Mary*; and therefore not at all enacted as an Exclusion, but a Confirmation of the *Right Heir*.

However, as far soever as a Parliamentary Power may pretend to extend in that Case; all these *Statutes* make nothing to the purpose for Justification of an Exclusion for matter of Religion.

For had those Parliamentary Proceedings been a Warrant or Precedent for any such Exclusion, never was a more urgent Necessity than in Queen *Mary's* Reign, of laying hold of such a Pretension. For considering the State of Religion in her Time, when looking back to the two last King's Reigns; so formidable a Progress had the Protestant Persuasion made, and the Inclinations of the People lean'd so much towards the Reformation, that the very Change of the Prince was enough to turn the whole Balance; and therefore as all her *papish* Measures were under a manifest prospect of being broken to pieces under a Protestant Successor, and that Successor was notoriously foreseen in her Sister *Elizabeth*, so much that Bishop *Gardiner* (speaking of her) could say, *That their burning of Hereticks was only vainly cutting off the Branches, whilst the Root was still alive*. Yet nevertheless it was so far from entering the Breasts of a *papish* Sovereign and a *papish* Parliament to Exclude a Protestant Heir, that Dr. *Burner* in his *Abridgment of the Reformation*, Book the 3d. page 325. says as follows. *A Bill was brought into Parliament, concerning the Letters Patents which the Queen had granted, or might grant. This related to the Foundations of Religious Houses; but only Coxly opposed this, and insinuated, that perhaps the Queen intended to dispose of the Crown in prejudice of the Right Heir; at which the House express'd so great a Dislike, as shew'd they would not have it so much as imagined, that Lady Elizabeth could be excluded. He had a publick Reprimand given him for insinuating a Thing so much to the Queen's Dishonour.*

Now notwithstanding here was a Queen so Zealous for Popery, and a Parliament so officiously forward in Establishing of it, that they gave their Queen possibly one of the most Ample Royalities that ever Parliament lodged in the Prerogative, *Viz.* the confirming indefinitely all Letters Patents that the Sovereign either had, or might grant; yet still this very Parliament utterly abhorred even the Imagination of so infamous a Projection as an Exclusion Bill: nor did the Bigotted Queen her self ever debase her self so low as to make use of this Act of Parliament, or any part of her Prerogative for so Dishonourable a purpose as the Prejudice of her Sister's Succession.

Now to compare Cases. If both a *papish* Prince and a *papish* Parliament detested the Exclusion of a Protestant Successor, though in so treasuring a Juncture, and so truly an Impending Danger to their Religion from that Succession, and that too, when her Parliaments had dissolved the Divorce of Queen *Katherine*, Queen *Mary's* Mother, unlawful; and consequently might have foreclosed the Right of *Elizabeth* under the most specious Pretext even of Illegitimacy itself. On the contrary, why should a Protestant Monarch and a Protestant Parliament now Strain Honour and Consciences beyond the very Papists themselves, and exclude a Royal Heir upon Presumption of being a papist, though with never so undoubted a Right, and above all pretensions of Scruple or Dispute, and that under little, or indeed no Danger to our Religion at all, a Religion not only so invincibly Fortified with so many strong Bulwarks of Law, but likewise by that most Impregnable of all Bulwarks,

Defendit Numerus junctaque umbone Phalanges.

The almost Totality of the Nation (comparatively speaking) against so feeble and scattered a Remnant of Papists, and so universal an Obedience of Popery.

I shall not think it worth my while to make much Reply to that part of the Character that treats upon Passive Obedience, and so boldly justifies the taking up Arms against an Oppressing Monarch. It is enough that Great Point of our Christianity has been the Subject of Nobler Pens, and therefore the discussing it is a province above me. I shall only give the Reader this Query. If the Great Lord of our Salvation could enjoya the turning of the other Cheek even to Injuries received from our Equals; I would fain know what part of Christianity can allow Resistance to God's Anointed? Let it suffice, that all that part of the Character was written by the Direction of the Right Honourable the Earl of Shaftsbury, after an Amendment made in the Character by the Advice of that L O Y A L Peer, bidding me speak more favourably of *Rebellion*.

Thus have you heard, not only all that the *papish* Character; but likewise the popular Fears have urged for the pretended Danger of Popery and Arbitrary power. And I doubt not but all understanding and unbiassed Readers will be fully satisfied of the unreasonableness of that Epidemical Jealousie that has so long infected the Head and Brains of the Short-sighted populace through those Scarecrows. I shall only now give the Reader his last Farewell of the *papish* Character in the Concluding Paragraph of that Pamphlet.

After that whole Libel by a Tautological sort of Rhetorick, a great many accumulated Words, but especially gay Allegories, has over and over again drawn a *papish* Successor only in so many

several Disasters, as one while making him a *Pero* with his Harp, and then his three Kingdoms are in the *General Conflagration*: another time an *Alexander* in his Cups, and then every honest protestant *Christians* but with his *thunder* his *drunken Frenzy*, is immediately his *Frenzy's Sacrifice*. Another while he's in the *Prophet Eliza's* *Drum*, and then the poor Protestants are the very *Birds and four legged Beasts* that *booke* his *Mouth*, with his *Label* over their *Heads*, *Rise, Slap, and Cat*. In another place, instead of *Pater patrie*, he's nothing but a downright *Lupus Agri*, and then we are only *Sheep and Lambs*. *Cum multis aliis*, &c. In short, having danced him through all the *Elements*, and transformed him into more several *Bestial Shapes* than ever *Jupiter* Whored in; after the Character has all the way brought us to universal and inevitable Destruction, and Enslaved both Us and our posterity, till the Admission of a popish Successour at last is no less than a *Plot of GOD* himself to scourge a Nation, and make three Kingdoms miserable, a Design form'd by the Irresistible Decree of Heaven, either for our *Sins*, or what Cause, to its self best known, to lay a Groaning Country in Ruine, &c. After all this, no sooner is this Ruinous Doom pronounced, but the Character immediately proceeds in *hac verba*.

Upon the Supposition of a popish Heir we must not conclude, that 'tis only the poor distressed Protestants that shall feel the Smart, and stand the Mark of Slavery and Martyrdom. A popish King has that pestilential Influence, that he *blasts* even the very party he *smiles* upon, and entayls a *Curse* upon his dearest Darling *Favourites*. As for Instance, if after this King's Reign, steps up a protestant Prince (for surely the whole Royal Blood must not all follow his *Apostacy*, and degenerate in *secula seculorum*) then what becomes of the popish Interest in the next Generation; and all that flourishing Party, whom either the Witchcrafts of Rome, or the Contagion of *Regis ad Exemplum* has nurs'd up for Ruine. 'Tis the greatest Toyl of the next King's Reign, to make those *severer Statutes* for future Ages, to suppress the *Insolencies and Follies* of the past; whilst those very *Tools* that were *Saints* but yesterday, are now trust't and dash't to pieces.

Now in the Name of Blunder Egregious, here's Richard and Baxter to the highest of Perfection. For here's the whole foregoing Design of the Character quash't at this one last blow. For if really all the popish and Arbitrary Movements and Acquisitions of a Romish Prince (as the Character itself affirms, which indeed by Chance is the very Oracle of the Pamphlet) will be totally crush'd and destroyed under the next protestant Sovereign: and all his popish Tools and Partizans, nay, the whole Romish Cause it self given up to the protestant Justice and Revenge, that shall crush them to pieces; so that in perfect Contradiction, instead of inextinguishable Slavery, universal protestant Ruine, and a total Extermination of Heresy, prognosticated all along in the Character; here's at most but a Temporary Flourishing of Popery, and so far from a real protestant Suppression, either by Persecution or Massacres, or the Devil knows what, that we shall be strong enough to rise up under the next protestant Heir, and to pluck up and demolish even Root and Foundation all the preceding Batteries and Machinations against our Religion and Liberties, whilst the True Ruine lies in fine, not on the protestant, but popish Side. If so, I say, as the Character has unluckily started this undeniable Truth, certainly we lye under no danger of a popish Successours ever attempting that irregular popish Achievement, and setting up that Short-lived Arbitrary popish Wagon, which, as has been proved before, and is even confess'd here, will be of so Calamitous a Consequence to the Interest and Safety even of his whole Party and Religion.

You see, Reader, what Incoherence, Absurdities, Contradictions, and indeed Impossibilities the popish Character is fraught with, and what notorious Stuff that is that Revenge and Malice obtrudes upon Mankind, where popery is the Theme.

But truly 'tis to be consider'd, that that Pamphlet was written and publish'd, not for the Instruction of the *Seven Wise Men*, but of the *seven thousand Ill-natured Knaves*, and the *seventy thousand credulous, unreasoning Fools* of that Age, (the REPRESENTATIVE Patron, to whom that Label was Dedicated, not excepted from the Number) that would have swallow'd every Syllable of it, had it been ten times more lowly ridiculous than 'twas.

Now, as not only the Character, but the unpondered and groundless Apprehensions of Men, have so dreadfully predicted such a terrible bloody Revolution under a popish Successour, without one *iota* of proving or examining how that wondrous Change is possible to come to pass; that the Reader may not be surprized at that weak sort of arguing in the one, and that headlong Credulity in the other, 'tis remarkable, that not one Pen that ever wrote upon Popery and Arbitrary-Power, ever scribbled otherwise. For as the HOW and WHICH WAY they can be introduced into England, are not in *posse*, those Essential Circumstances are always *Subber'd* over, and nothing but a Huddle and Jingle of general *Potions of Fire and Faggot Assassinations and Massacres, Popes and Devils*, &c. And a Declamatory Discant upon those *Tragical Heads*, are ever the whole Contents of the Chapter; and whilst the peoples Fears are set a tingling by this sort of *Din and Gibberish*, they are babled out of their Senses, and transported into Frenzy it self without looking farther, or searching deeper for the Grounds of their Fears. For Example, let us trace up the first Alarm of Popery and Arbitrary-power even to the Fountain Head. In all the venomous Libels in the late blest *Martyr's* Reign (for there were popish Character Writers in those Days too, though in other Names) in all the *Licentiousness* of that Villanous Age, and the highest Encouragements of *Rebellious Senates*, there were neither those *Pens* nor *Tongues* within the

the Parliament House, or *without* it, that could ever go further than to a *late* and *Outcry* of Popery and Arbitrary Power; for in all the hideous Roarings against *Popery* (as 'tis not the *Councillers*, but the *Council* put in *Execution* that can hurt us) was the Man of them all that *did*, or indeed, *pretended* to particularize those popish Counsels, or form the least Draught of any Dangerous popish Machinations whatever under the least probability of shaking our *Laws*, *Liberties*, or *Religion*.

'Tis true, there were *strange* and *wondrous* popish *Intendiaries* represented at work, but about doing of what. The Devil a word they inform us. Not all the *Republick* *Rhetorick*, nor all the *Eloquence* even of counterfeit *Fears* and *Jealousies* could lay down one tolerable *Demonstration* of the *fatal* *Compositions* of those popish *Fireballs* those *Incendiaries* were to use, or the *Combustableness* of what they were to set on Fire. Nay, those very *Devils* that had *Impudence* enough, not only to murder the best of *Kings*, but to bring him to a *Scaffold*, with a solemn *Pageantry* of *Justice*, were nevertheless so far from the Confidence of pretending the popish *Strength* or *Numbers* in *England* to have the least *Shadow* of *Ability* to erect their *Romish* *Altars*, and subvert the *Protestant* *Religion*; that to carry on the popular *Fears* by that *Forged* *Sham* of *Popery*, and give *Body* and *Bulk* to the *Goggon*, they were forced to help out one damn'd *Imposture* by a *Greater*, and bring in the very *Church* of *England* for *Popish* and *Antichristian* to joyn in the Plot. Nor were our *later* true *Protestant* *Rome-dreaders* much short of the same *Artifice*, to crutch up the same *Cripple*.

Nay, for want of any *Substantial* *Pretext* of the Introduction of any of the *Real* *Fundamental* *Superstitions* of *Rome*, they were put to the wretched *Shift* of making the harmless *Book* of *Sports*, licensed by *Bishop* *Land*, and an after-Service Game at *Coyts* or *Stool-Ball*, no less than all over *Rome* and *Antichrist*; yes, and to push the jest a little farther, the old *Kings* tolerating half a score of *Priests* (in *Indulgence* to his *Queen*) to wear the *Habit* of their *Order*, though in *Reality* an *Object* more for the *Hooring* of *Boys*, than the *Converting* of *Men*, was screwed up to no less than a Plot upon the whole *Reformation*.

Now, as the Characterizing of such a *Tyrannick* popish Successour in *England*, is but Mounting that *Chimerical* *Jehin* in the *Chariot* where neither his *Whells* can move him, nor the *Ground* will bear him; and all the *Pretensions* of *Fears* from *Popery* are only *Suppositious* and *Delusive*; nay, and considering that those most violent *Asserters* of *Romish* *Dangers* in that very *Age*, when they had this *Advantage* to help out, *Viz.* To alledge the Old *King* was a *Papist* in *Disguise*; by which *Villanous* *Supposition* they had ten times a fairer *Field* for the pretended Introduction of *Popery* than can be under a *Visible* popish *Prince*; could nevertheless urge so little to the purpose, and so weakly support the Cause of such *Fears*: The *Contradictions*, *Noyse*, *Rumble* and *Nonsense* in the Character on the worse side of the *Hedge*, are a little more *Excusable*.

Having (I may with Confidence say) fully answered and confuted all *Appearances* or *Suppositions* of *Danger* from a *Popish* Successour; yet as the *Minds* of some People are so strangely possess'd and insatuated with those *Brainsick* *Fancies*, and *Visionary* *Specters* of *Popery* and *Slavery*, that scarce the most apparent *Truth*, the most substantial *Reason*, nor *Oracles*, nay, not *Angels* from *Heaven* could *Cure* or *Dispel*. I shall therefore go one step further, and to dissipate all *Storms* or *Clouds* whatever from *Romewards* impending, plainly and absolutely convince them, that whatever *Scruples* may yet remain unsatisfy'd; at this present day there is not the least *Prospect* or *Idea* of any such *Threatning* Successour in the present *Royal* *Line* of *England*.

For though that *Illustrious* *Prince*, whom the *Malice* of *Antimonarchal* and *Associating* *Traytors*, and the *Insolence* of a *Pack* of *Seditious* and *Confederate* *Commons*, like the old *Sons* of *Earth*, have level'd their *spightful*, though feeble *Vengeance* at; though that great *Insur'd* *Prince*, I say, through the false *Mirror* of those *Anarchical* *Bouteuseurs* has been villaniously rendred almost the only *Object* of the greatest part of the popular *Jealousies*, as the intended *Underminer* of our *Laws*, *Religion* and *Liberties*; I shall unanswerably demonstrate the utter *Impossibility* of that glorious *Prince's* ever being that *Man*, or debasing himself so much, as to entertain the least *Thought* that way, be his *Religion* what ever it will.

For supposing he were really a *Convert* to the *Romish* *Perswasion*, what *Question* is that *Prince* likely to make to the *Romish* Cause? For if he be that *Convert*, either the *Pope* believes a popish *Heir* of *England* Capable of setting up the *Romish* *Religion*, or not capable of doing it.

If capable, as that's the present Point; Then undoubtedly (which is but a reasonable *Conclusion*) he has left no *Pains* nor *Industry* unmanaged to *Advance* or *Advantage* the *Popish* *Interest* by such a *Convert* as an *Heir* of the *English* *Crown*. And if so, the only *Policy*, or indeed the only possible *Means* of favouring the least *Romish* *Hopes* whatever, had been to have used the utmost *Papal* *Authority* for enjoying and perswading him, not only to have kept himself wholly undiscover'd, but likewise wholly *unsuspected* to the *Kingdom* by any *Abscenting* from our *Communion*, or any other *Imaginary* *Symptome* of such a *Conversion*.

For as all the greatest of *Inconveniencies* and *Misfortunes* have attended the whole popish Party upon the meer *Supposition* of such a *Conversion*; and that only founded on the foremention'd *Occasion* of *Suspicion*. Witness the removing all *Papists* whatever from all *Offices* of *Trust* in the whole *Kingdom*, from all *Seats*, either in *State* *Administration* or *Parliaments* by the present *Protestant* *TEST*, wholly created upon that *Suspicion*; by Force of which there is not the least *Admission* of a *Papist* into any *Place* of *Power* in the *Government*, except by taking of the *Protestant* *Sacrament*,

and entering into a Solemn Oath against the popish Religion, and subscribing to a Recorded Abjuration, even of the greatest and most *Essential Articles* of their Faith as *Superstitious* and *Idolatrous*; and so by the most impudent *premeditated Perjury*, and setting the notorious Brand upon themselves of that sordid and scandalous *Renuntiation* of their very Religion, which the poorest Soul'd Pagan that ever worship'd but *Garlick* and *Onions* would blush at.

Besides all this weeding out of the popish Party from all Authority and Power, being no small *Blow* to their Interest under so weak a Number of that Persuasion in England. There is not any one *Calamity* that for these seven last years has befall'n the whole popish Party, that is not truly owing almost wholly to this *Suspicion*.

And therefore as all the *Ill Consequences* (or worse) attending them, are really no more than the *Pope* and all his *Counsellors* could in common *Reason* expect from a Nation so extravagantly jealous of *Popery*? whil'st woful Experience might have remembranced him how dangerous and destructive even a less *Shadow* of popish Inclinations had been; nothing was more indispensable (I mean for the popish Interest) in a popish Heir, than all means of avoiding such *Suspicion*; nay, possibly even for his own secure *Access* to the *Throne*.

'Tis true, some ridiculous People have foolishly objected, That the Deserting of our *Communion* was for the *Advantage* of their *Cause*; it being as it were setting up the *Standard* of *Popery* to call all Hearts and Hands together; whereas otherwise the *Romanists* had been kept in Ignorance of the *Champion* God had rais'd for their *Deliverance*; and thereby might have neglected the glorious *Opportunity* that offered it self. — Now in the Name of *Dulness*, if any such *Deliverance* were imaginable, or any *Succour* to the *Romish Cause* whatever, either sooner or later could be expected from such a *Convert*; or lastly, if the *Conscience* or unsullied *Gloss* of that *Heroick Prince* were possible to be wrought upon to stoop to so ignoble a *Design*, as any unwarrantable popish Assistance; Why must the *Papists* be kept in Ignorance of his being one of them, if he were so; without some kind of publick Declaration: when 'tis notoriously known to all the sensible part of Mankind, what *Advantages* of *Intelligence* and *Correspondence* the *Papists* have above all Religions in the World; when their *Jesuites* are by the very Duty of their Order, the greatest *Spyes* upon *Christendom*, whil'st the privatest Affairs and Secrets of *Families*, *Courts* and *Kingdoms* through all *Europe*, from hand to hand, and from Superiour to Superiour of them, are convey'd to the *Pope* himself.

So that take the whole Matter together with this Advantage of *Communication* even under *Confession* it self on the one side, and the foremention'd Dangers from a *National Jealousie* on the other, as I said before; whatever Discovery might have been requisite to their own Party, the highest Policy of *Rome* had been to have concealed the very *Suspicion* of it from the *Protestants*; more especially, if they had had any such Thing as a *King-killing Plot* in hand, or the least part of the *Salamanca Conspiracy* upon the Anvil. For then they might have made use of *Ruffians*, or *Screw'd Gunners*, and as *Dugdale* swears, have laid the King's Murder upon the *Presbyterians*, or any other of the scatter'd Churches with ten times more ease; and have hastened the Mounting a popish Successour with more Facility into the Royal Seat.

And therefore as nothing can be a plainer or greater *Obstacle* to all popish Designs whatever than this *Conduct* in the present Heir of *England*, if he be a *Romanist*, and they had an Expectation of any considerable *Advantage* to their Religion from his being one: undoubtedly there has been no *Oratory* wanting to induce him to so necessary and so *Venial* a Disguise, as being the most important Prop of their *Cause*. But maugre all the *Necessity* of such a Compliance, and all the *Romish Interest* depending thereupon, notwithstanding the papal Power of a *Dispensation* in that Case, and all the *Arts* that may have been used to that purpose; nothing is more visible than his *Indisposition* and *Aversion* to so dishonourable a *Condescension* as playing the *Hypocrite*, how dispensable soever in that Church, or how advantageous soever to his own Circumstances.

Now I appeal to all Mankind what least *Apparition* of popish Danger, or what humane possibility of that very Princes ever being that so much dreaded *Romish Instrument* for *Arbitrary popish Tyranny*, through the most execrable *Violation* of the most sacred *Royal Trust*, the most flagitious of *Perjury* in the Breach of a solemn *Coronation Oath*, to trample our *Laws*, *Religions*, and *Liberties* to pieces; that has already proved himself so incapable of dispensing but with one poor piece of *Hypocrisy*, though against the highest *Interest* of *Rome*, though to the wakening of all the sleeping *Statutes* against *Recusancy*, tho to the raising of *Tests*, *Oaths*, and *Sacraments*, and thereby not only excluding the Sons of *Rome* from all *Honours*, *Trusts*, and *Employments*, but likewise exposing them to the Dayly Severities and Persecution of the *Laws*, nay, and very near to the shaking of his own *Hereditary Succession* to an Imperial Crown.

Now (I say) if this very Prince (upon Presumption of that Church) be nevertheless a Person of those rigid Principles of Honour and Conscience, that he durst not so much as digest so inconsiderable a piece of *Disimulation*, though for the highest and most Important Service to himself and his whole Church; how much less shall he ever condescend to the *Ignominious* and *Indelible Brand* of downright *Perjury*, and launch into all the *Barbarities* and *Outrages* of *Tyrant* and *Murderer*, and all this too, as has been plainly proved before) with very little, or none; at least, no reasonable *Hopes* of doing himself or his Church any Service at all.

Besides, as tis utterly impossible either for *Pope* or *Papists*, even with the most *Romantick Assurance* and Confidence of *Success* ever to hope for a *National Conversion*, or a *Romish Establishment* in One Age; insomuch that 'tis not a single *Popish Successour*, but a *Line* of *Popish Successours* that can be so much

much as suppos'd capable of going through with so difficult an *Undertaking*; what least *Shadow* of any such *Intention* can we imagine from this Royal *Heir*, when he has not only bred up his next *Immediate Heirs*, his Children in the *Protestant Religion*, but likewise lodg'd them in the Bosomes of those very *Protestant Princes*, as far from the least *Inclination* towards *Rome*, or a *Look* that way, as the whole *Choice* of *Christendom* could have pick'd out. So that upon the Issue of the whole Matter, how contrary to *common sense* is it, to think that very Prince either is, or can be so stupidly infatuated as ever to Embark in so hazardous an *Atchievement*, which (were he Crown'd to morrow) with his years upon his back, he begins but with the latter part of a Life, and which the length of a Queen *Elizabeth's* Reign could never finish. And all this so preposterously too, as to be for building that *Romish Interest* with one hand, which he has so palpably destroy'd with the other.

Considering then, (as has been fully proved before) that *Popery* in the present State of *England*, is something like the vulgar Tradition of the *Basilisk*, it must either look *Us* safely *Dead*, or we shall look that so; For there's no *Medium* in the Case, between *Conquering* or *Dying*: who in his right wits can imagine this Prince will ever Begin what he himself before hand has taken Care shall never be Finish'd. And if not finish'd, will be but put into a ten times worse Condition than if never begun. And therefore not only his meer *Pride* will be our *Security*, it being impossible that any thing that has one spark of *Glow* will ever ingage in a Cause under such *Certainty* of a *Defeat*; but likewise supposing even the utmost Suggestions true; under such an *Impossibility* of *Crowning the Work*, the *Greater the Zeal*, the more *Inoffensive the Zealot*: since all *Irregular* exorbitant Ferments of *Popery* will but hatch *Scorpions* and *warm Snings* for its own Destruction: the greater the *Tenderness* for his own Party and Religion, the greater the *Security* of ours.

Moreover the *Character* positively lays down this *Maxime*. That the *Papists* doom all out of their own Church to certain *Damnation*: and on that *Foundation* all their Bloody Principles are built, as thinking no Cruelty too severe, nor any Tyranny too sanguinary; but on the contrary, the most barbarous Gospel Propagation the greatest *Obligation* of their Religion. And therefore it tells you, *A popish Successour will never believe he can do his Subjects an Injustice in that very Thing in which he doth God Service, or that he injures Us when he does our Souls right*. And that therefore all the threatened *Miseries, Horrors and Desolations, &c.* from the beginning to the end of the whole Character, flow from no other Source.

Now if this be truly the *Tenet* of a *Romanist*, and all our horrible dangers proceed from that *Tenet*, either our present Royal *Heir* must be no *Romanist* at all; or if he be one, however he absolutely differs from *Rome* in that particular *Main Principle*. For if such were his *Faith*, and such his Principles, why has he so wilfully and so egregiously contributed to his own Children's *Damnation*, not only in their severest *Protestant Education*, but likewise in that additional Strengthening that Damnable *Perfwasion* by such *Fatal Marriages*, whereby he has not only endanger'd their living and dying in that *Erronious Faith*, but likewise secured the *Interest and Establishment* of that *protestant Religion* in likelihood by *Them and their Heirs* to the *End of the World*; and consequently contributed to the *Damnation* of succeeding *Heretical Generations* in *Secula seculorum*.

I have only one thing more to add for the *Safety* of our Religion. There is not in the World that Prince in his Nature more grateful for *Services* and *Obligations* received, or a firmer and more unalterable Friend than himself. And as the Church, and only the Church of *England* has truly and vigorously asserted the *Justice* and *Duty* of maintaining his unforfeitable *Succession* and *Indivisible Birthright*, and has stood ALONE in the Gap against all the whole Crowd of his *Enemies*; we may confidently assure our selves, that if ever 'tis Heaven's pleasure he should be our *Sovereign*, that all such kind and signally good *Offices* will never be ungratefully requited by the most Generous of *Thankinds*.

I shall only conclude; under this manifest *Security* of our Religion and Government on all hands, They that shall have *Impudence* enough (no *Person* nor *Quality*, in any *Station* whatever excepted) to persecute that Prince under the Pretence of *Fear*, are undoubtedly planting the same Batteries against three Kingdoms that were rais'd in his Royal *Father's* Reign; and a Bill of *Exclusion* must truly carry the Design of all the old *Remonstrances, Ordinances, Covenants, &c.* with the Soul of a *Cook*, a *Bradshaw*, and a *Cromwell* at the Bottom on't: and all the *Senate-House Church-proppers* under that *Vizor*, are only Establishing Religion with the same Brand in their *Hearts* that *Cain* built *Cities*. And I doubt not but the *Wisdom* and *Loyalty* of *Succeeding Times* will regain Sense enough to countermine all such *Villany*, and redeem the yet unrecovered Honour of *England* by *shaming* such a *Second Imposture* from the World.

And now to draw to a Period, I have only this *Warning* to give to the great *Sticklers* against *Popery* and *Arbitrary Power*, to have a Care that they *Themselves* do not bring in what they so *Zealously* endeavour to keep out. For if *Popery* and *Arbitrary Power* shall ever get Footing in *England* by a *Popish Successour*, it can only be then, when by *Unlawful Exclusions*, and *Rebellious Associations* against him, they shall put him upon cutting his way to his *Throne* by his *Sword*, and consequently give him the Occasion, both by *Foreign* and *Domestick Assistance*, of gaining that *Right* by *Conquest* which is denyed him to assume in *Peace*; and thereby enable him by the *Power* and *Right* of a *Conquerour*, to *Abolish* what *Laws*, and *Establish* what Government he pleases, without either straining his *Honour* or *Prerogative*. And so shall the *Irregular Designs* of defending our Religion and Liberties

of destroying them. And that this will be the undoubted Success of such unlawful and traitorous Opposition of the Royal Heir, let all such Turbulent Spirits (for their Comfort) consider that the World is much mended of late, and whatever Prosperity attended their victorious Father's *Rebellious Arms*, the old *Cheat* will not pass altogether so glibly a *second time*; and the deposing of Monarchs will be, in all reasonable prospect, a *tougher piece of Work* in this Age than the last. For Men's Eyes and Understandings begin to be more *Enlightened*, and the Odds (thanks be to Heaven) is on the *Loyal Side*.

However as a Caution to those *unwary* People that may be seduced by the false *Suggestions* of Republican Conspirators under the plausible Pretence of *Liberty* and *Religion*, to ingage in so impious a Cause. Besides the Breach of their *Christianity* and Hazard of their *Souls* in so wicked an Undertaking; they are link't into that very Rebellion in which they are certain of making themselves *Miserable*, not only if they are *Subdued*, but likewise if they *Conquer* too. For as I said before, there's not only a certain *Slavery* attends their *Defeat*, the Impudence of such *flagitious Treason* being it self alone a sufficient *Provocation* of Tyranny, enough to exasperate even the *serenest and best Temper'd* Princes into a Spirit of *Cruelty*, and consequently, to make him impose that *Yoke* upon their *Rebellious Necks* which they have but too justly deserved; and so put him upon *Acting* what otherwise had never entred so much as into his *Soul* to *Think*: So on the other side, supposing their *Strength* and *Fortune* would prove so great and successful as should answer their most *Flattering Hopes*, and that it would be possible for them to gain that *Absolute Triumph* o're the *Royal Cause*, as to reach, not only the *Crown*, but also the *Head* that wears it: yet all this while what have they done, but through all the *gaping Wounds* of their poor *Bleeding Country*, through all the *Horror* and *Miseries* of a barbarous *Civil War*, deposed and butcher'd *One Imaginary Tyrant* to set up possibly five hundred *Real Ones*.

For as all *Victorious* Rebellion ends in *Anarchy* and *Confusion*, and all the *Conquests*, *Acquisitions*, and *Trophies* devolve into the Possession of the greatest *Ringleaders* of the *Conspiracy*, whil'st the popular hands, the *working Tools* that set them up, have little or no share in the *Booty*. What have the deluded Wretches gain'd by the *Change*, but only avoided a lesser *Scylla*, to run into a greater *Charybdis*, enslaved themselves and their Posterity to a *Herd of Tyrants*, to escape a single one. A worse Subjection than that they fear'd and fought against. A *Republican Tyranny* being so much more intolerable than a *Monarchical One* can be, as this has but the *Ambition* of *One* man to satisfy, and the other of *Hundreds*, whil'st the particular *Pride* and *Avarice* of each respective *Dignified Rebel* in Power, has so many *seperate* sinister *Interests* and *Appetites* to gratify, and thereby our *Estates* and *Patrimonys* continually to be squeez'd and drain'd not only for the Chargeable Support of *Standing Armies* that must uphold this *Anarchical Constitution*, but likewise be exposed to the insatiate Gorge of every *State-Cormorant* amongst them. A Tyranny so much more unsupportable than that of a *Crown'd Head*, as there are so many of them to *conspire* and *abet* all the the greatest of *Insolences* and *Injustice*, and so many to *divide* the *Shame* of it. A Tyranny yet so much more execrable still as every *Low-born Villain* amongst them dare stoop to all those *dishonourable*, *abject*, and *sordid Deeds*, that *IMPERIAL Blood* and *ROYAL Heirs* would stagger at.

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